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VOL. 6 JANUARY 1939 No. 3

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

The Official Organ of the South African Library Association

Vol. 6 January — 1939 No. 3

KINDERLEKTUUR IN AFRIKAANS

vir kinders tot op die ouderdom van 12 jaar

deur

JESSIE HEAN

(*vervolg van no. 2*)

11 TOT 12 JAAR, d. w. s. Std. 4 en 5

Buiten die baie boeke uit hierdie groep wat vir beide meisies en seuns geskik is, het die dogters nou ook hulle eie skoolverhale. Dit word dikwels krities opgemerk dat daar geen diepte in sulke boeke te vinde is nie. Waarom die kritici innigheid as onmisbaar beskou in die kind se ontspanningslektuur, is moeilik om te verstaan. Die kosskoolverhale van Stella Blakemore, Sita, M. E. Rothmann en ander is natuurlik nie hoë kuns nie, maar hulle voldoen aan die eise van die lesers.

Stella Blakemore is die mees suksesvolle skryfster van kosskoolverhale. Uitbundige vreugde straal uit *Die Meisies van Maasdorp* en *Kobie Regeer*, en altwee word ook gekenmerk deur 'n baie gesonde toon. Die skryfster se goeie insig in die wese van die tipiese skooldogter beteken dat sy net dié soort boeke lewer wat die lesers tevrede stel. Hulle sien hulleselwe weerspieël in die woelige meisies van Maasdorpskool, en kan innig meevoel met arme ondeunde Kabie wat „'n baie goeie invloed" wou uitoefen, maar net daarin geslaag het om nog erger in die verknorsing te verkeer.

In *Lentedae*, deur Mev. Pienaar, neem 'n klomp vrolike dogters deel aan al die sport, uitstappies, middernagfeeste, vakansiebesoeke (en selfs ontgroeningseremonies en eksamens) wat die kosleerling se skooljare uitmaak.

Ander kosskoolverhale vir meisies wat gewoonlik op hoë prys gestel word, is *Jong Dae* deur M. E. Rothmann, en *Bakvissies* van Sita waarin die leef en leed van meisies op skool uitgebeeld word.

En toe die Prins Kom, die sentimentele verhaal „van 'n Afrikaanse aspoestertjie" vind byval by party meisies van hierdie ouderdom, asook *Kussinkies en Hoekies*, vry bewerk uit die Engels, deur J. M. Reyneke. Die moralistiese

strekking is sterk by hierdie boeke, en ook by 'n ander vrye vertaling uit die Engels, nl. *Jessica se Eerste Gebed*, deur Hesba Stretton.

'n Reeks boeke wat glad nie in die smaak van die jong leser val nie, is dié van Fanny Eden (in Afrikaans oorgesit deur Dr. R. J. Marais). Tog word hulle baie keer in alle erns aanbeveel as goeie lektuur vir kinders. Die boeke is wel goed bedoel, maar heeltemal misluk as kinderverhale. Elke storie is oordrewe en oorlaai met sentimentaliteit. In baie gevalle sou selfs die titels 'n lewenslustige kind afskrik. 'n Paar boeke uit hierdie reeks is bv. *Niemand se Liefling nie*, *Wie se kind?*, *Ver van Huis*, *Sonder God in die Wêreld*, *Moederloos*, *Na Agtien Jaar*, *Goudkoppie*, en *Dis Maar 'n Meisie*.

Die dogters lees natuurlik baie van die diere- en awontuurverhale wat hulle broers so graag op die boekrak hou. Een van die beste dierestories vir hierdie ouderdom is *Drie Jong Jagters*, deur P. J. Schoemann, 'n skrywer wat die kindertoon goed tref. Drie seuns gaan op jag, en hulle ervaringe word beskrywe; die boek bevat ook baie besonderhede oor die diere wat hulle sien.

Ook baie goed geslaag is G. S. Preller se mededelings oor die gewoontes van diere in *Op die Wal van die Mahalakwena*. Hierdie boeiende beskrywing van 'n wintervakansie in die Bosveld word dikwels genoem „die jong jagter se handboek" weens Preller se noukeurige uiteensetting.

Seuns bewonder die dapperheid van Terrie, die jaghondjie, in *Terrie op die Wildspoor* deur W. S. Chadwick; Aschenborn se *Lewe van 'n Gemsbok* en *Herinneringe uit die Jagveld* deur J. F. Cillie is interessant; ook geskik is die volgende vertalings van jagverhale: *Op Jag in die Wildernis* deur Theodor Roosevelt, en *In die Hartjie van Oos-Afrika* deur von Mecklenburg.

Onder die groot voorraad skool- en awontuurstories wat die harte van die jongmense verbly, verdien E. B. Grosskopf se *Patrys Hulle* die ereplek. Geen seun sit hierdie boek gewillig neer voor hy dit klaargelees het nie. Die skrywer hou altyd in gedagte dat hy opsetlik vir seuns skrywe; om dié rede is die kwajongstreke van die „taai, skraal, ratse stuk doringdraad", Patrys, en sy maats baie leesbare stof. *Swart Slang en ander Verhale* en *Henri die Skildknaap* deur dieselfde skrywer is ook altyd in aanvraag.

Dwaalstories deur Eugene Marais, *Maseppa die Leeu van die Grasvlaktes* deur J. J. Groeneweg, *Die Laaste van sy Stam* (*Vry en Bly serie*) en *Deric onder die Indiane*, is ook goeie verhale wat by hierdie afdeling hoort. Deric is 'n seun wat die dorpe van Rooihuide in Nu-Meksiko en Amerika besoek het; in sy boek vertel hy van „die wonderland in die Suid-Weste, met sy geheimsinnigheid, sy eienaardige bewoners, en opwindende awonture". Die vertaler O. G. P. Grosskopf het daarin geslaag om die gees van die oorspronklike boek te behou.

Die Volstruiswagtertjie, deur P. S. du Plessis, skets die lewens van vier

kinders wat saam skooltoe gegaan het, en wat saam opgroei. P. W. Botha se *Joggie* is die storie van 'n weeskind wat worstel en ly, in gedurige botsing met sy omgewing.

'n Ander boek wat aangename leesstof vir die groter seuns verskaf, is *Op die Pad van die Voëls*, deur P. Jac. Strydom. Dit is 'n pakkende geskiedenis van die groot pionier, Pierre van Ryneveld, en 'n ander dapper „seun van die Vaderland", nl. Brand. Die kinders hoor hoe hierdie onverskrokke vlieëniers die historiese vliegtog van Kaïro na Kaapstad gemaak het, in die „Silver Queen". So 'n boek oor moderne helde is iets seldsaams in die kinderlektuur, en dit is tereg populêr.

Heelwat awontuurverhale is ook uitgegee wat 'n historiese agtergrond het. *Die Seerowers van Saldanha*, deur A. D. Divine, is 'n voorbeeld daarvan, maar dit is veral merkwaardig as die eerste Afrikaanse see-verhaal vir seuns. „Dubbel welkom is hierdie boek," skryf Dr. P. C. Schoonees in *Die Saamwerk*, „omdat dit ons jeug in aanraking bring met die glorieryke tydperk toe die Hollandse driekleur op al die wêreldseë gewapper het. Tromp en de Ruiter is vir ons jong mense feitlik onbekende name, om nie eers te praat van die beroemde seevaarders nie . . . dit is hoog tyd dat die Hollandse seetradisie weer herleef in ons letterkunde."

Die verhaal speel in die tyd van die Hollandse Oos-Indiese Kompanjie. Seerowers verskyn aan die Kaap en neem die skip „Stavoren" in besit. 'n Dapper Afrikaanse seuntjie, Pieter Malan, is gevange geneem en moet die seerowers help. Na 'n mislukte poging om te ontsnap, het die kans egter gekeer. Met behulp van 'n paar slawe het Pieter die „Stavoren", saam met 'n ander skip, aan die eienaars teruggegee.

Vir die Admiraal, deur W. J. Marx, is ook 'n egte seunsboek. Dit is 'n gedeeltelik-geskiedkundige verhaal uit die tyd van die Hugenote.

Soos 'n mens sou verwag, is speurderstories baie gewild. Watter seuntjie wou nie te een of ander tyd speurder gewees het nie? Wat hierdie verhale betref, is die naam van Hendrik Brand genoegsame waarborg vir die jong leser dat hy die boek spannend sal vind, en vol geheimsinnige gebeurtenisse wat hom lekker laat gril.

In Brand se speurderverhale speel sy bekende karakter Adriaan Hugo die vernaamste rolle. In *Die Bedrieër* is daar ook 'n driemanskap van seuns wat as amateur-speurders ingryp om Hugo te help. Hulle handel soos egte seuns, en dit blyk dat Brand 'n goeie insig het in die wese en ambisies van die normale seun van elf of twaalf jaar. In die ander drie verhale wat vir hierdie kinders geskik is, nl. *Adriaan Hugo, Speurder*, *Die Verlore Prins*, en *Die Skerpioen*, is bedrog, geheime vereniginge, pistool of vuisgevegte en verrassende awonture volop. Die kontras word ook orals benadruk, tussen

die opregte speurder, van amper bo-menslike knapheid, en die boosaardige skurke wat hy uitoorlê.

In *Rotsvas* deur van Biljon, is die hoofkarakter 'n seuntjie wat een van die helde van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog word. Van sy vroeë jeug af moes hy alleen in die wêreld staan, want hy het sy ouers verloor. Hierdie tema kan vergelyk word met dié van *Hugenotebloed*, deur Helena van Rhyn. Daarin vertel sy hoe 'n armblanke seun, Stefan, die „drang van Hugenote bloed in sy are" het, en hoe hy naderhand 'n suksesvolle man word.

Danie, die voorbeeldige held in *Danie se Hoop Vervul* deur Mev. P. Oelofse, moet ook baie hard werk, en dikwels teleurgesteld word ; nog 'n „poging om te voorsien in die behoefte aan kristelike lektuur vir kinders" is *Aanhou Win* deur S. Liebenberg. Dit is meer populêr as Mev. Oelofse se verhaal, want die jong leser wil liewers nie gedurig aangeraai word om iemand as voorbeeld aan te neem nie, soos in *Danie se Hoop Vervul.*

Wil die kinders boeke lees oor die helde van ander lande en tye, kan die volgende bundels aanbeveel word : *Die Sage van Frithiof* deur F. Brassier, *Sages van die Ryn, Helde uit Griekeland, Helde uit Noorweë, Siegfried die Nibelungeheld* (elkeen uit die vervolgreeks van *Ons Leesuurtjie*), *Legendes van alle Nasies* deur I. D. du Plessis, en *Heldesages uit die Griekse Mitologie*, bekende stories oorvertel deur Eybers, „soos uit die oorlewering bekend, maar met gefantaseerde omstandighede ingevleg".

Wat geskiedenis betref, is C. R. Swart : *Kinders van Suid-Afrika*, 'n waardevolle boek. Dit is opgedra aan „al die Penkoppe, Drawwertjies, Verkenners en Staatmakers van die Unie, omdat die kind sterk op die voorgrond tree by die toneel van ons volksverlede". Daarin word baie jong helde gehuldig, o. a. Willem Wylant, „die eerste Afrikanertjie", Dirkie Uys en Jannie Bezuidenhout, die seun van Slagtersnek. Sulke boeke dien om die nasionaliteitsgevoel van die jongspan te ontwikkel en buitendien verskaf hulle genotvolle ontspanning.

Willem Kamp behandel die volksgeskiedenis in *Jan van Riebeck se Briewe*, (oor 'n paar minder bekende gebeurtenisse uit die eerste dae van die Kaap.) Hy lewer ook *Vergete Helde*, 'n ware verhaal waarin vertel word van heldedade wat Afrikaners verrig het. Sy bundels sketse uit ou dagboeke, bv. *Delwerye uit die ou Dae* en *Livingstone in Donker Afrika* is uitstekend, asook sy *Vertellinge uit die Kafferoorloë.* As skrywer van bondige geskiedenisboekies en ware verhale sal Kamp nie maklik oortref word nie.

Ander verdienstelike boeke is Langenhoven se natuur-wetenskaplike werkies *Die Aarde en die Maan*, en *Die Sonnestetsel en verder* : vir kinders is hulle net so interessant as 'n goeie verhaal, want Langenhoven gesels gemoedelik met hulle oor allerhande feite en verskynsels.

Lig uit die Ooste, deur Rikie Postma vul 'n leë ruimte in die kinderbiblioteek aan, want dit leer die kind om die Bybel as 'n Oosterse boek te beskou, en dit daardeur beter te leer verstaan en waardeer. Baie uitdrukkinge en gewoontes word verklaar, en die lewe van mense in die Ooste word beskrywe.

Die volgende dien ook as lektuur vir die elfjarige kind: *Skelmstukke van Rooi Jakkals*, vertaal deur Brink, *Jakkals se Strooptogte* deur C. J. Grové, *Nahoonlegendes* en *Vakansie in Friesland* (*Selflees serie*) deur H. Luhis, en (uit *Ons Leesuurtjie*), *Koraaleiland*, *Die Rooihuide*, *Die Twee Prisoniers* en *Manco die Hoofman*.

12 TOT 13 JAAR, d. w. s. Std. 6.

Skoolverhale en stories van familielewe behaag die meisies van hierdie ouderdom. *Vier Vriendinne*, bv., 'n boek deur *Eva Walter*, is altyd in aanvraag. Dit handel oor die lief en leed van 'n klomp meisies gedurende hulle skooljare en daarna. Hettie Celliers se kosskoolverhaal, *Chrissie en Joey*, is ook 'n suksesvolle meisiesboek.

Skooldogters stel almal belang in *Die Jongste Meisie in Maasdorpskool* deur Stella Blakemore. Dit is 'n voortsetting van haar vorige boek, en daarin ontmoet die lesers weer die vrolike meisies van Maasdorpskool. Buiten die bovermelde skoolverhale, is *Kind van die Veld* deur Helen Blackmore ook geskik.

Die seunsverhale uit hierdie afdeling (wat die meisies gewoonlik ook geniet) is veral awontuur-, speurder-, spook-, diere-, en sportstories, en baie van die awontuurverhale het 'n geskiedkundige atmosfeer. So een is byvoorbeeld *Dawid Malan* deur D'Arbez, die bekende verhaal van 'n trekkerseun, wie se moed en durf deur al die jong lesers bewonder word. *Mooi Annie*, deur dieselfde skrywer, het ook 'n historiese agtergrond, en is nie te moeilik vir 'n skoolkind om te lees nie. Nog 'n historiese roman is *Marianne* deur N. H. Theunissen, 'n verhaal wat in die tyd van Willem Adriaan van der Stel speel. A. Coetzee leen ook stof uit die geskiedenis vir sy twee boeke, *Trekgees* en *Die Swerwers*. Enkele hoofstukke in *Trekgees* is pynlik langdradig, vir ongeduldige lesertjies, maar daar is nogtans baie interessante mededelinge oor die Groot Trek en die ontberinge van die Trekkers. Veral leer die kind daardie gees huldig wat hulle aangespoor het om al die gevare van die onbekende te trotseer. *Swerwers* bestaan uit sketse oor die Dorslandtrek. Twee dapper seuns neem deel aan die trek en beleef tallose awonture. *In die Woeste Weste* deur G. J. Prinsloo en J. G. Gauche beskryf die lyding en ontberinge van die Dorslandtrekkers. *Ignaas Prinsloo of Volharding Bekroon* deur C. W. H. van der Post word ook geniet deur sommige kinders.

'n Minder-aantreklike werkie, op geskiedkundige voorvalle gebaseer, is *Waar die Driedorings groei*, deur C. J. Scheepers.

Die kinders wat van geskiedenis hou, soek dikwels ander historiese romans en vertellinge uit, maar ongelukkig is die meeste daarvan vir grootmense bedoel, en derhalwe nie alte maklik verstaanbaar deur die jongspan nie.

Nog 'n algemeen-beminde genre is die diereverhale. Die vernaamste vertolkers van wat in die dierewêreld omgaan, is natuurlik die gebroeders Hobson. Hulle naam is altyd genoegsame waarborg dat die stories pakkend, sowel as noukeurig sal wees. Baie van die gebeurtenisse in hulle boeke is na die lewe geteken, en die broers beskik ook 'n goeie verteltrant wat sulke voorvalle boeiend weergee. Hulle het 'n deeglike kennis van hulle tema, en laat Kees, Buks en die ander as lewende skepsels handel. *Kees van die Kalahari*, *Buks*, en *Skankwan van die Duine* kan veral hartlik aanbeveel word, al is die inhoud van *Kalahari Kaskenades* en *Op die Voorposte* ewe opwekkend. Sulke boeke vorm uitstekende kinderlektuur, en elkeen dra sy deeltjie by om die kind se leeslus aan te moedig.

Die skrywer Chadwick het ook 'n grondige kennis van die dierelewe, maar sy boeke is op verre na nie so goed as dié van die Hobsons nie. 'n Belangrike verskil is ook dat Chadwick gewoonlik uit die jagter se standpunt skryf, terwyl die gebroeders Hobson hulle lesers laat meevoel met die diere ; hulle boeke dien dus altyd om 'n liefde vir diere in die kind in te boesem. Chadwick se *Slagoffers van die Rowers*, wat uitsluitlik die lewe van allerhande soorte antilope beskrywe, is 'n uitsondering. Daar sien 'n mens nie die jagter Chadwick nie, maar iemand wat Waaksaam die Eland, Brompot die Wildebees, en Waaierstert die Rietbok goedgesind is.

Dit is tipies van Chadwick se boeke dat die diere almal name dra wat betrekking het op een of ander kenmerk, bv. Vaalreus die Olifant, Sterktand en Geweld die Leeus, en Kwaaikop die Renoster, in *Op die Spoor van Ons Grootwild*, en ander in *Bosreuse*, en *Jagters en Wild*.

Ander diere-of jagverhale is bv. *Die Adelaar en ander Afrikaanse Verhale* deur A. Aschenborn; daardie mooi boekie *Mof en sy Mense* deur Langenhoven, en die moeiliker bundels deur Sangiro (*Op Safari*, *Uit Oerwoud en Vlakte*), Eugene Marais (*Sketse uit die Lewe van Mens en Dier*), P.J.Schoemann (*Die Jagterprins*, *Die Swerwer-jagter*) en J. M. Friedenthal (*Op die Spoor van die Gorilla*).Die laasgenoemde ses boeke is eintlik meer geskik vir ouer kinders, maar word dikwels ook gelees deur die jonger broers en susters.

Bundels wat 'n gunstige indruk maak is die seunsboeke *By die Ou Murasie* deur J. V. Heese, *Die Geheime Vereniging* deur A. Maree, *Dawid se Reis na Groenland* en Eva Walter, *Vakansietye*. *Dawid se Reis* berus op ware feite ; 'n seuntjie het as junior lid van die Groenlandekspedisie aan boord van die „Morrissey" na Baffin Baai saamgegaan. Hy vertel van alles wat hy

op reis gesien en gedoen het, in 'n bondige styl wat die aandag van seuns of dogters sal hou.

Vir party kinders het ware verhale, soos die bogenoemde, 'n groter aantrekkingskrag as die produk van 'n skrywer se verbeelding : derhalwe die populariteit van die volgende reisvertellinge : *Die Eskimos* : Roald Amundsen, *By die Suidpool*, deur Borchgrevink, Oscar Iden-Zeller se *Deur Eensame Siberie*, Sven Hedin : *Anderkant die Himalajaberge*, en *Deur die Bosse van Brasilië* deur Dr. K. Wettstein (*Ons Leesuurtjie*, vervolgreeks).

Speurderverhale, en boeke oor verwante onderwerpe maak ook gebruik van die kind se awontuurlus. Hendrik Brand se Adriaan Hugo verhale is goeie ontspanningslektuur op hierdie gebied, as ook *Die Diamantkoper en ander Stories* deur Beeba, en *Jean de Ville* van „Vidas". *Die Vloek van Ming Loeng*, wat onlangs verskyn het, bevat drie verdienstelike verhale deur Hans Rompel. Leipoldt lewer ook twee speurderstories *Die Moord op Muizenberg* en *Die Verbrande Lyk*. Langenhoven word verteenwoordig deur *Donker Spore*, en A. Maree deur *Wie se Spoor ?*

Spookstories bevredig ook die gewone seun se versmagting na iets ongewoons en opwindends. Die meesterskrywers is Leipoldt en Langenhoven, wat altwee daarin slaag om bonatuurlike en spookagtige verskynsels oortuigend uit te beeld. Hulle boeke op die gebied is *Geeste op Aarde* en *Die Wandelende Geraamte* deur Langenhoven, en *Waar Spoke Speel*, *Die Rooi Rotte en ander Verhale*, en *Wat Agter Lê* van Leipoldt. Al hierdie spookstories, sowel as die speurderverhale deur dieselfde skrywers, is in die eerste plek vir volwassenes geskryf, maar moet ook op die lys kinderlektuur gesit word. I. D. du Plessis, wat sy grootste roem deur sy rugbieverhale behaal het, is ook die outeur van 'n bundel spookstories, onder die titel *Uit die Ander Wêreld.*

Dit spreek vanself dat boeke oor sport gretiglik gelees word deur die meeste seuns. Die rugbieverhale van I. D. du Plessis is uiters geskik vir hierdie stadium sowel as vir die ouer kinders; hulle adem 'n gesonde gees uit, en bevat boonop 'n weelde van sportterme, wat lank in onbruik gebly het. I. D. du Plessis het vier boeke geskryf met die rugbieveld as agtergrond, nl. *Die Springbok*, *Die Silwer varing*, *Die Rugbykroon* en *Die Wedstryd en ander Verhale vir die Jongspan* (wat ook speurder- en ander stories bevat). In die drie eersgenoemdes word vertel van vier seuns en die gebeurtenisse wat hulle beleef. Twee van hulle, toe hulle nog skoolseuns was, is gekies as lede van die Springbok span ; *Die Springbok* eindig dus met die verslag van 'n wedstryd tussen „All Blacks" en Suid-Afrikaners. In *Die Silwervaring* en die *Rugbykroon* gaan die seuns op toer na Nieu-Seeland en Engeland respektiewelik. Weens interessante stof en pakkende styl bly hierdie boeke nooit lank sonder 'n leser nie.

Die skoolkind hou gewoonlik meer van 'n lang verhaal as van kort sketse of stories ; tog geniet hulle soms bundels soos die *Soeloelegendes*, oorvertel deur van Zyl, of *Bantoestories* deur Hoffmann. Daar is ook sketse oor die bewoners van ander streke, bv. *Kykies in Ons Volkslewe* deur Mev. Steenkamp, en 'n paar van die beskrywings uit de Roubaix se *Boesmanlandse Sketse* en *Giel Ool en ander Verhale*.

Nog 'n vrugbare bron van kinderlektuur is legendes ens. uit die klassieke tydperk, bv. *Wat Ons aan die Grieke verskuldig is* deur Brenton ; *Uit die Griekse Heldewêreld* (Hawthorne) ; *Die Gode van die Klassieke* deur D. A. Mackenzie ; en *Uit die Land van Homeros*, 'n vertaling van Kingsley se „*Heroes*" deur Eybers.

Die volgende boeke kom ook in aanmerking : *Babilonie en Assirië in die Ou Tyd*, en *Stories uit die Operas* deur Eybers ; *Praatjies met die Jongmense* deur Jong Oupa ; *Hy het sy Merk gemaak* deur L. Postma ; *Ben Hur*, 'n verhaal uit die tyd toe Jesus op aarde was ; en Langenhoven se "eerste lessies in die vak van burgerplig", nl. *Die Goeie Burger*.

C. GEDIGTE

Volwassenes kla dikwels daaroor dat kinders wat prosabundels gretiglik lees, tog geen lus het vir die lees van gedigte nie, hoe interessant en mooi hulle ook al mag wees. Dit word nog meer opmerklik as ons onthou dat die klein kindertjies altyd meer genot skep uit gediggies of rympies, as uit die prosaverhale wat voorgelees word. Hoekom het die ouer broers en susters dan so 'n teësin in gedigte ?

Die toestand is grotendeels te wyte aan verkeerde metodes van onderwys. Die arme skoolgaande kind leer gedigte ken as 'n serie lang verse wat hy moet leer, of hy wil of nie. Sy klas leer soms net een gedig gedurende die skoolkwartaal, sonder om enige ander versies te hoor of te lees. Selfs die gedigte wat hulle leer, is boonop soms nie eens interessant nie, en 'n mens kan maar net raai hoe vervelend dit naderhand word. Dieselfde proses word gewoonlik voortgesit dwarsdeur die laer skool, met die verskil dat steeds moeiliker en langer gedigte voorgedra moet word.

Kon hierdie kinders egter meer gediggies lees, sou hulle sodoende die versies leer waardeer. In baie gevalle sou ook 'n blywende liefde vir poësie wakker geroep word. As gediggies geleer moet word, kan elke kind dan sy eie keuse maak uit 'n geskikte kinderbundel ; daar hy dit self uitgekies het, leer hy die versie maklik en spog daarmee. By ouer kinders verseker so 'n metode dat die kind meer gedigte deurlees, en dien tegelykertyd om sy ontwikkelende smaak te toets.

Dikwels maak grootmense die fout om net daardie gedigte voor te lees

wat hulle self geniet. Partykeer lyk sulke gediggies kinderlik omdat hulle oor kinders is, maar die kleinspan hoor liewers verse oor iets waarin hulle self belangstel, as oor hulleselwe.

KINDERS ONDER 7 JAAR

Die eerste gediggies waarmee 'n kind kennis maak is natuurlik die wiegeliedjies. Daar is baie mooi voorbeelde daarvan in verskeie kinder-bundels, bv. die slaapdeuntjies in *Kleuterversies* ('n versameling deur Dr. J. R. L. van Bruggen), *Slaapliedjie* uit *Kinderliedjies en Speletjies* deur Antoinette Hoexter, drie wiegeliedjies uit Hilda Postma se bundel *Ons Outjies*, Dirk Mostert se *Kom Dommel*, en nog 'n gediggie uit *Moeder en Kind* deur T. W. Jandrell. Die skrywer van die lieflingsliedjie op hierdie gebied is egter Langenhoven, met sy liefde vir alles wat klein is (*Liefdesonsin*).

Wat versies vir kinders in die stamelwoordjiesperiode betref, beklee die boekies van Mev. A. E. Carinus die belangrikste plek. As skryfster van eenvoudige rympies wat die egte kindertrant tref, is sy uitstekend. Boeke deur haar waarmee die kleintjies almal danig is, is *Die Sterrekindertjies*, *Prinsessie in die Veld*, *Veldmensies*, *Tien Langoor Hasies* en *Tien Kaalkop Kêreltjies*. In *Tien Langoor Hasies* word vertel hoe hulle een vir een verdwyn totdat net twee hasies oorbly. Die twee

> Sing ek en jy alleen'
> Maar, ag pardoems! Daar gly Amant
> Toe bly daar nog maar een!

In *Veldmensies* word beskryf hoe hierdie volkies saam met hulle dierevriende baljaar, want

> Die Kalkoentjie trap, en dis tiekiedraai,
> Dis derdemannetjie ly of gly
> Met al die torre en goggas daarby.

Toe sien hulle twee slapende kinders en maak hulle mandjie vol vrugte.

Die Sterrekindertjies is ook bedrywig; hulle vryf hul lampies glad met „stukkies watte van 'n wolk". 'n Komeet skiet plotseling verby met vonkelende stert, en almal „rol en spat, hot en haar". Die afwerking in illustrasies is pragtig, en die kind wat een van hierdie bundels present kry, is baie gelukkig.

Vir hierdie stadium dien Hilda Postma se *A.B.C. Boek*, met 'n kort rympie vir elke letter. A, byv. „staan vir Aia. Sy sit op die grond, Aia sê, Toe kinders, speel jul maar rond".
Die ander versies is ewe eenvoudig.

Helena Lochner behandel allerhande onderwerpe van kinderlike belang in haar eerste bundel *Vrolike Versies*, bv. *Skapies*, *My Hondjie* en *Die Skêr*, met sy liedjie:

My naam is snipper-snip,
Lekker kan ek knip
Tou, papier en lap
Gee ek 'n kwaaie hap.

In *Wip-ry* verklaar 'n seuntjie :

Maar Boet wou hoër gaan,
En ek was glad te dom.
Te hoog laat ek hom wip
Hy't nog nie afgekom!

Dit is 'n tipiese seuntjie wat met *Die Goudvissie* gesels. „Jy lyk tog so koud," sê hy,

Jy swem daar sonder 'n jassie.

en toe, met 'n gelukkige inval,

. . . nou weet ek wat—Ek leen jou 'n jas uit my kassie!

Al die ander versies in hierdie boekie is ook egkinderlik en derhalwe baie aantreklik.

M. de Villiers se *Klein kinderrympies vir die Substanderds* bevat minder gewilde gediggies, want die noodsaaklike sangerigheid ontbreek by die meeste van die versies. Daar is egter 'n paar goed-geslaagde gedigte in Mev. Henriette Pienaar se werkie *Skoelappers en Bye*, *Deel I*, wat vir dieselfde standerds bedoel is. Daar sit beweging in die voëlliedjies soos :

Ring-ting-ting
Die voëltjies sing
Met 'n tingelingeling
En 'n klokkie-kling.

Ander geskikte verse is *Die Muise se Dansparty* („rondom die boer se kaas"), *Baba se Toontjies* en *Die Voëltjie in die Reën*. *Die Morestond het goud in die Mond* en *Koppigheid* is effens prekerig, en 'n paar vertalings van Engelse gediggies is ook nie alte suksesvol nie.

Buiten hierdie bundels wat uitsluitlik vir die kindertuin geskryf is, bestaan daar natuurlik afsonderlike gediggies uit ander kinderbundels wat ook geskik is. Daar is, byv., 'n paar kinderlik-naïewe rympies deur Alers, wat in 'n leesboekie verskyn, onder andere *Kat en Muisie* en *Wat is dit ?* Die tweede gediggie beskrywe 'n trein in besonder eenvoudige woorde :

Daar kom hy,
Daar brom hy,
En dan staan hy stil.

Die Meerkat, deur J. Lub is ook uit 'n leesboekie. Daar is dan nog 'n paar gedigte deur Visser wat binne die grense van die kind se begripsvermoë val, nl. *'n Raaisel*, *'n Dosyn Waarhede* en *Biesie-biesie-bame*. Die „Dosyn Waarhede" is oor die kind se oog „waar die lig in kom", sy oor „waar die by in brom" en dergelike meer ; aan *Biesie-biesie-bame* is beskrywings verbonde van die speelgoed. Dit is tyd vir „bad-bid-bed", en

Skoon is nou weer elke poppie
Van die vingers tot die koppie.

Daar sit hulle almal sedig, maar

Almal is nie soet gewees ;
Want die stoute Teddiebeer
Het sy bakkies swart gesmeer,
En die wilde Golliewok
Het vandag weer so gejok
. . . Toe maar, nou is almal soet ;
Moedertjie is ook weer goed.

Antoinette Hoexter se bundeltjie *Kinderliedjies en Speletjies* bestaan uit versies wat selfs die ses- of sewejarige kind op die eenvoudige wysies kan sing. *Paddatjies*, *Kippie*, *Vliegie* en *Die Musikantjies* is alvier baie maklike liedjies wat die kind se sanglus bevredig.

Kleuterversies, 'n bloemlesinkie saamgestel deur J. R. L. van Bruggen, is besonder welkom. Dit bestaan uit rympies en liedjies uit die volkskuns, bewerkings van Hollandse en Engelse gediggies en 'n paar oorspronklikes. Daarin is voorsiening gemaak vir kinders tot op die ouderdom van tien jaar, want die inhoud is sorgvuldig gerangskik. Eers kom die slaapdeuntjies troetelrympies en wiegeliedjies, gevolg deur die uitbof-, uitkoggel- en speelrympies, en, ten laaste, die kleuterversies, gedigte waardeur „die kinderritme van die eeue weerklink".

Onder die vingerrympies en leerrympies vir die heel kleinstes vind ons byv. die volgende klanknabootsende versie :

Die klein otjie sê ô, ô, ô, ô,
Die klein hondjie sê woef-woef.
'n Koei sê moe-moe
Die groot haan by die watersloot sê
Koe-ke-doe-del-doe.

'n Kind leer sulke rympies graag, want hulle behandel iets waarin hy self geinteresseerd is. 'n Beter rympie van dieselfde soort, is *Eier Gelê* :

„Eier gelê, eier gelê", sê die hoender
„Waar, Waar ?" vra die makou.
„Om die hoek, om die hoek", sê die kalkoen
„Ka ka ka ka!" lag die gans.

Telrympies is ook nie moeilik om te leer nie, en 'n kind spog graag met sy

Een twee,
Swem in die see
Drie vier
Bang vir 'n mier

versies. Die reels „sewe ag, Leeker lag", vind hy altyd aanmoedigend.

Vyf gediggies deur Maria Vorster (*Versies uit Niemandsland*) hoort by hierdie groep, nl. *Sneeu*, *Reent*, *Opstaan Tyd*, *Eendag* en *Tikketak*, waarin ons die reëndruppels op die dak kan hoor val. „Tikketak, tikketak" juig die kinders saam,

Val maar op ons dak,
Reëntjie ons is bly
Om jou weer te kry.

Soos *Opstaan Tyd*, is *Eendag* ook bewerk na 'n versie deur R. L. Stevenson.

As ek so groot as vader is,

beweer die seuntjie, . . .

sal ek. . .
Al die kinders reguit sê
"Laat staan my speelgoed laat dit lê!"

Nog twee bundels geskikte gediggies is Sannie Steyn : *'n Nuwe Bundel Kindergediggies* en die *Dageraad Speelliedjies* van Hugo en Gutsche.

7 TOT 8 JAAR

Hierdie kinders het natuurlik 'n wyer keuse van gediggies omdat hulle so veel meer kan verstaan as die jongeres. Hulle kan gediggies nou ook self lees as die taal by hulle leesvermoë pas. 'n Aantreklike bundel is *Vrolike Versies, Deel II* deur Helena Lochner. Een van die beste gediggies is *My Broers*, waarin 'n dogtertjie vertel :

Kry ek nou net my eie sin
Verkoop elk altwee Piet en Hennie
Vir Jan is trippens baie min,
Maar daardie Jan kos net 'n pennie.
Hoekom so goedkoop ? vra jul nou
Jan trek my hare, Hennie terg ;
Piet knyp my O! so pers en blou
Dink jul nie dis te erg ?

As die lastige broers egter lekkers bring, is die saak anders :

Dan wil ek hulle nooit verkoop,
Selfs miljoen pond is te min!

Kinders lees ook graag van die *Voëlverskrikker*. Sy

gelapte jas en keil is nou
Die mode van die jaar.

Die voëls is glad nie bang vir hierdie ou voëlverskrikker nie, en sit selfs op sy lelike kop.

Verder is daar nog baie verse waarin die kinders belang stel, want Helena Lochner tree nooit self op die voorgrond nie, en sy skrywe altoos fris en spontaan.

Skoelappers en Bye (*vir Std. I*) deur Mev. H. Pienaar, bevat 'n paar baie sangerige verse soos die lied van *Die Wiel en die Water* :

Wiel deur die water,
Water oor die wiel,
Dit kletter en dit klater
Oor en deur die wiel.

of die trein wat „oor Heksrivier se berge" loop:

Daar druk hy en hy krul,
. . . Maar as hy eers weer oor is,
Dan gly hy net soos seep
Met 'n boelerooi, boelerooi, tjiep, tjiep, tjiep!

Die kleinspan word dan na feeland gevoer om *Doppie*, of Bloubaard en Witkeil (*Die Kaboutertjies*) te besoek ; hulle maak ook kennis met baie voël-

tjies in *Die Familie-Tortelduif*, *Voëls se Maniere* of *Die Sikspensvoël* ('n Jong, genaamd Sikspens, beveel hom om stil te bly.

Dan skree hy weer, "Haai Sikspens, haai!"
"Dis waar, ek maak van jou nou kaf."
Net Sikspens, sikspens! 'k vlieg nou weg.
Jy sal vir my nooit vang nie.")

Die *Inkmannetjie* is altyd 'n gewilde rympie onder die kinders; hulle kan maklik glo dat daar so 'n klein kaboutertjie is,

wat in die inkpot dans
Dat die druppels eintlik spat.

'n Grappige gediggie in dieselfde bundel is *Die Vloekwoord*. Jannie kom sy broertjie verklik; „Maar wat het Boetie dan gesê?" vra sy moeder. „Ag," sug Jannie, „dis te vreeslik,

Ma se hart sal sommer breek!
Ma sal seker dit nie glo nie
Want-hy sê-hy sê-*Apteek*!

Ander sonnige versies is *Die Verfblikkie*, *Meneer Springer* en *Die Vier Katjies*.

Nog 'n bundeltjie wat 'n baie gunstige indruk maak is Mev. Carinus se *Vrolike Volkies van die Veld*. Met skeppende fantasie laat sy die kinders meelewe en meevoel met die oulike veldmensies en hulle maats (want die uile, kraaie, bokkies en hasies neem ook deel aan die handeling).

Wat afsonderlike gediggies betref, het Eugene Marais 'n drietal uiters mooi versies aan die kinderlektuur geskenk. *Die Spinnerak-rokkie* spreek duidelik tot die kindergemoed; 'n feetjie las spinnerakke aanmekaar om 'n rokkie te maak,

Maar nouliks was dit om haar lyf
Toe kom 'n windjie vlug en styf.
En met die uiting van sy sug
Daar trek ons Feetjie deur die lug.
Haar maatjies staar haar treurig aan
. . . Tot sy met heel haar rokkie fyn
Daar in die verte glad verdwyn.

So eenvoudig-kinderlik is die waarskuwing wat volg, dat die kinders glad nie voel dat Marais met hulle spot nie:

As jy 'n rokkie ooit besit
Van spinnerak of iets soos dit,

sê hy, baie ernstig,

Pas op hoe jy jou dan verroer,
'n Windjie mag jou glad vervoer!

Die Naaistertjie is ook 'n sangerig-aanlokkende gediggie. Die kind sien nou „deur die steier van die hoogrankbone . . .

'n Fee so fyn
Dat die son haar lyfie met goud deurskyn,
Sy het 'n blaar gepluk met die kleur van wyn
En sy naai haar 'n rokkie met spinnerak fyn.
Sjuut! Sjuut! Kom maar weg deur die takkies dik,
Ons moet die Ou Kleintjie tog nie verskrik!

Die mees bekende kinderversie van Marais is *Klaas Vakie*, wat, soos die bovermelde gediggies ook, 'n hoë peil bereik. Klein Jannie verbeel hom dat hy Klaas Vakie kan sien :

Hy stoot die voordeur stadig oop,
En in die skadu sien ek hom ;
Sy swart manel is oopgeknoop,
Sy snaakse lyfie hoepelkrom ;
Sy lang gesig is uitgedroog,
Hy staat by my skaars skouerhoog!
Sy ogies knip, sy lippe lag
Sy langbol-hoed is in sy hand ;
Hy kom van buite uit die nag,
En bly net in die skadurand !

In die flikkerende kerslig verskyn die snaakse kêreltjie, so naby dat die seuntjie sy knopies op 'n ry kan tel. Toe verdwyn hy weer ; as die ogies „wyer rek

Daar staar 'n skadu in sy plek.

Dit is weer Tant Sannie wat praat,

Nou, Snuiter, hooi-toe op die plek!
Ek ken die stem, nou moet ek hoor.
En as ek opstaan om te gaan
Dan kom hy weer van daarvandaan
En trap so soetjies in my spoor!

J. R. L. van Bruggen se versameling *Kleuterversies* word hier verteenwoordig deur 'n paar van die uitbof-, speel- en kleuterversies. Die kinders kan almal, byv. die grappigheid van 'n gediggie soos *'n Vergissing* verstaan.

„Kom kyk," skree Pietie vir Japie
„So 'n snaakse boom
Ek sê, kom ons gaan boontoe klim
Ek's ek, en jy is Apie!"
En toe begin klein Jaap te klim,
Maar watwou, woerr—en waai,
En toe eers, raai, geware ons
Volstruismannetjies is kwaai.

Die onsinversies is ook altyd populêr : 'n kind, met sy ryk verbeeldingskrag, sien byv. niks onredeliks in *Sê nou*

. . .was heel die wêreld van papier
Die see net pure ink
En wag- 'n-bietjies was va ı kaas,
Wat sou ons dan kan drink ?

Daar is natuurlik baie ander geskikte gediggies vir kinders van hierdie ouderdom, want die boek bied 'n ruime keuse aan.

'n Skryfster, met besonder verdienstes en gawes is Christa van Tonder. Die gees van haar bundeltjie, *Hartediefies*, is jonk en fris, want feitlik elkeen van die lugtige sonnige gediggies is 'n ware weerklank van wat in die kindergemoed skuil ; selfs die eenvoudigste versies munt uit deur spontaneïteit en vrolik-vloeiende ritme, soos byvoorbeeld die volgende reëltjies uit *Bolletjies Ferweel* :

Vir drie weke lank het Moeder kloek-kloek
Op eiers gesit, daar ver in 'n hoek.
Toe eind'lik, pik! pik! en daarna piep! piep!
G'n koning so trots soos ou Moeder Kiep.
Die kassie word vol, vol bolle ferweel!

Klein kindertjies luister met gespanne aandag na *Speeltyd*. Almal speel Kat en Muis, en skree opgewonde :

Toe, Katjie, roer jou! Muis is uit.
Beknip hom, vang hom, maak hom buit!
Hou arms hoog, maak wyd die kring
Dat muisie maklik deur kan spring.
So amper-amper-skraps verby!
Toe roer jou, muis! Kat gaan jou kry.
Oppas! O tog! Daar het jy hom.
Tingeling, tingeling!—Speeltyd is om.

Hoe raak tref die skryfster ook die kindertoon in *Kouse Ophang*. Daar hang al die kouse

. . . elke grootte en soort.
Ha, Ha! Waar 't jy daardie een uitgegrawe ?
Nee, hy het aan Ou Mevrou Naag behoort!

en,

Aan Willie se toon is (sy kous s'n, meen ek!)
'n Briefie gespelde wat Santa moet lees :
„Onthou tog my enjin, asse-baie-blief tog,
Dan sal ek die heel jaar 'n soet seuntjie wees."

Mooi versies vir hierdie kleintjies is ook *'n Tragedie*, *Vader Krismis*, *Goeienag*, *Ondersteboland*, en die gediggie oor *Arme Teddie* wat semeltraantjies huil want

Die trotse waspop sê al weer
Ek is 'n lelike eenoogbeer.

Hilda Postma het ook 'n aangebore gawe vir die skrywe van aantreklike kinderversies. Saam met die kinders, en soos een van hulle, tree sy hulle droom- en verbeelding-wêreld in. Op eenvoudige vrolike wyse skets sy die kindervreugde in *As dit Reen* :

Hoor daar, hoe val die druppels!
Boetie, Boetie, kom dan nou!
Hier's die stoele, hier's die leisels,
Haal nou jy die rystoel, gou!
Oe, hoe lekker vinnig ry ons!
Piets, jong, deur die drif vir laas.
Tik ou Rubie, laat haar kopspeel.
Hook-haai, hier's ons by die plaas!

Grappige gediggies behaag die jong kind veel meer as enige ander soort versie, derhalwe die populariteit van *Oom Tjaart* („Hy loop so snaaks, sy knieë knik asof hul hik, en krieksekraaks") of *Honkie Ponkie* ; die wagte en bediendes weet nie dat dit net 'n muisie is, wat aan die koninklike skoen sit knabbel-knaag. Hulle „Soek hoog, soek laag, soek rondom om", terwyl

Die Koning skop, die Koning skreeu
Wie raas hier by my bed!
Het ek nie op die doodse straf
Geraas hierom belet ?

Die volgende gediggies uit dieselfde bundel, *Ons Outjies*, vind ook byval by die jongeres: *As Pappa Kaaptoe Ry*, *Weerklank*, *Ouma se Verjaarsdag*, *Die Poskantoor*, *Die Glasdeur*, *Duifie*, *Die Winterwind* en *Winkels*.

Dit is maklik om te sien dat Dr. Visser, die skrywer van *Uit Ons Prille Jeug*, 'n kinderhart gehad het. Geen lysie versies vir die kleinspan is volledig sonder 'n paar gediggies uit daardie bundel nie. Visser was, volgens C.M. van den Heever, „juis een van daardie digters wat alle konvensies en aangeleerde wysheid kon wegmerk, en gedigte skrywe waarin hulle die siel van die kind wou uitdruk in dartele en speelse versies wat met bevallige ritme, fris oorspronklike beeld, en veral skilderagtige koddige siening, die kleintjies—wie se ogies nog verbaas na die wêreld kyk—kan verras as 'n onverwagte wonder". *Noag se Ark* is miskien die aantreklikste versie vir kinders, weens die vermaaklike klankgebruik en vergelykinge. Die kleinspan is nooit moeg vir die „olie-rolie-polie-Katjie-poetjie-olifant", die „ou veertien-voet-van seerkeel-as-hy keelseer-kry-giraf", die „piering-pinang-rottang-blatjang-oerangoetangs" of hulle „arkebroeders" nie.

Die mooi versie *Trippe-trappe-trone* bly maklik in die kind se geheue, en die volgende gediggies is ook gewild: *Mê Lammetjie Mê*, *Stout Beentjies*, *Kierang Speel*, *Weg is die Wapad* en *Is dit dan Reg*?

Versies uit Niemandsland deur M. Vorster kan gewoonlik nie alte vry aanbeveel word as kinderlektuur nie, maar die volgende gediggies is wel geskik vir die kind in sy sewende of agste jaar: *Op die Strand*, *Die Slak*, *Skooltoe*, *Windjie*, *Katjie*, *Kowiet*, *Die Onvermoeide Son* en *Winter Juwele. Klei Osse*, een van die beste versies, beskryf hoe twee seuns „lekker swart potklei" sit en brei:

Hulle vryf en druk en rol
. . Netnou staan die os daar klaar,
Horings, stert en huid en haar . . .
Kêrel, kom ons inspan nou,
'K neem die sweep en jy die tou
Troei daar, Donker, ho, ha, ho!
Draai die briek aan, so, ja, so!

Ander bronne waaruit gediggies vir hierdie groep kinders geput kan word, is *Juweeltjies*, saamgestel uit *Die Kleinspan*, deur de Wet Laubscher, en met 'n paar oorspronklike versies daarby. Veral geskik is: *Kwikkie en Kwakkie*, *Reënboogvlerkies* deur de Wet Laubscher, en *Jan Tuisbly se Karretjie* deur Sannie; *Kinderrympies vir Afrikaanse Kinders* deur Tante Kota, *Kinderliedjies en Speletjies* deur Antoinette Hoexter (byv. *Marsjeerliedjie*, *Kokkewiet* en *In die Skool*) *Riena Reinet*, *die Afrikaanse Pop* deur L. en R. J. van Reenen, *Ons Afrikaanse Resitasieboek I* deur van der Merwe en Bot (veral bedoel vir skoolgebruik); en *Liefdeskransies* van Sarah Goldblatt. Die laasgenoemde is egter taamlik verouderd en van min nut. *Vir die Kinders* deur C. J. Hofmeyer bevat 'n paar geskikte gediggies oor Wolf en Jakkals, Skilpad, die duisendpoot en ander diertjies, sowel as „aksie-liedere" en kinderspeletjies. (*word vervolg*)

LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN NEGRO

by

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On Wednesday night of this week you had the pleasure of listening to a lecture on "Bantu Literature". To-night I am pleased to have the privilege of taking with you a fleeting glance at the literature of the Negro. It was a happy thought that made possible the consideration of these subjects, because of the close relationship existing between the two peoples, and because of the great interest that each has in the accomplishments and achievements of the other; in the sorrows and joys, in the triumphs and defeats, in the way in which each is trying to meet the conditions that confront it and to work out its own salvation, though with fear and trembling. This, I say, is a happy thought, because it helps in some degree to satisfy the desire of each group to know more about the other. The American Negro is greatly interested in his kinsmen left upon these shores. There is a "Tie that binds", which I hope is destined to grow stronger and stronger as we learn to know each other better; and there is no surer way in which to understand the strivings and yearnings, the thoughts, ambitions and secret hopes of a people than through a careful study of their literature. And we owe a great debt of gratitude to that noble American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, who through his generosity has made it possible for people everywhere, the poor and lowly as well as those better circumstanced, to study and understand the inner thoughts and feelings of their brothers in distant climes. The libraries which he has founded, are in a very true sense monuments of civilization.

The topic for this evening is "Negro Literature". I shall assume that the subject has reference to the American Negro; I shall therefore pass over Juan Latino of Spain, a Negro who earned his doctorate from the University of Grenada, and who, because of his literary attainment, occupied there the chair of poetry; I shall say nothing of Dumas Père and Dumas Fils of France,

[1] An address delivered at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Carnegie Non-European library, and the Johannesburg Gamma Sigma Club, at the Bantu Men's Social Centre, Johannesburg, 22. July, 1938, Mr. E. A. Borland, Chairman.

the first of whom could dictate the outline of four works at a time to his collaborators while he himself worked upon a fifth. Nor shall I speak of Ignace Sancho who was a powerful figure in the social and literary London of his time; nor shall I speak of Antar, the Arabian Homer, or Alexander Pushkin, the unexcelled singer of Russia, or of Elizabeth Barrett Browning of London. We shall pass these over and look to America with whose soil are mingled the bones of African slaves.

When in 1619, the African was lured away from these shores and faced life in a new world, he carried with him no literature of his own except the unwritten folk tales handed down verbally from generation to generation; he found none in his new home that he could understand or that expressed life as he knew it. Although slavery with all its darkness, with its cruelties and inhumanities offers no encouragement to literary production and stills the voice which under more favourable conditions would burst forth into song, the Negro, so accustomed to smile and sing away his sorrows and sufferings, did not remain entirely mute during these two hundred and fifty odd years of servitude.

Phyllis Wheatley

The first singer to attract attention was Phyllis Wheatley. Though known as an American Negro she was born in Africa in Senegal, in 1753. In 1761 she was brought to America with other Africans to be sold into slavery. More fortunate than those with whom she came, when placed upon the auction block, she was bought by John Wheatley, a tailor, who wanted a special and personal servant for his wife during her declining years. Phyllis, who took the name of her mistress, soon distinguished herself from the other slaves by her intelligence and was taught to read by Mary, the daughter. We are told that within sixteen months from the time of her arrival in America, she could read fluently the most difficult parts of the Bible. She studied astronomy, geography, ancient history and secured a thorough and appreciative acquaintance with the most important Latin Classics. Even these modest attainments were very rare for American women at that time. Phyllis now turned her attention to poetry, inspired by the Homeric verse as translated by Pope; and as one critic has said, she became a kind of poet laureate in the domestic circles of Boston. In 1773, after being formally given her freedom, she was sent to England for her health, and was under the special care of Lady Huntingdon. Here she received many presents, one of which was given her by the Lord Mayor of London, a magnificent folio edition of "Paradise Lost", which is now in the library at Harvard University. While in England, arrangements were made for the publication of her volume of

verse, entitled "Poems on Various Subjects". This collection contained thirty-nine titles written by a slave girl not yet twenty years of age. Her best poem is said to be "On Imagination", a poem filled with genuine feeling. "On Virtue" is remarkable for its simplicity and the emotional utterances of a fatherless and motherless slave child. The form of her verse is an imitation of Alexander Pope. All the selections in this volume are especially noteworthy, because of the earnestness and sincerity that pervades them. Her songs attracted universal attention and Phyllis Wheatley becomes the first real expression in the new world of the soul of the Negro.

Juppiter Hammond

Juppiter Hammond is regarded by many as the first Negro poet in the English colonies. He was born about ten years before Phyllis Wheatley. His first poem, entitled "An Evening Thought", was published in 1760. Hammond besides publishing several books of verse, was a pulpit orator of some note.

George Horton

A few years later came George Horton, a well known Negro poet of North Carolina. He was born a slave in 1797. It is reported that he learned how to read by matching words which he knew in the hymnal, with those in a spelling book. Unable at the time to write, his earliest compositions were written for him. By writing verse for the students of the University of North Carolina, where he was employed as janitor, he earned a little money. A book of verse entitled "The Hope of Freedom" was published in 1829. This work was published in the hope that he might realize from its sale enough to purchase his freedom.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar

These are just a few of the literary stars that twinkled faintly during the black night of our slavery. Nearly a hundred years passed by before the Negroes produced a poet who was unsurpassed in his ability to interpret the lowly life of the Negro. This was Paul Lawrence Dunbar. He was born June 27, 1872, at Dayton, Ohio, about twenty miles from Wilberforce University. While still a youth he showed signs of possessing rare poetic ability. He himself did not realize his poetic genius as he whiled away his spare time in writing verse in Negro dialect. Thus he spent his leisure hours while employed as an elevator boy in a Dayton hotel. In 1893 he published his book of verse—"Oak and Ivy". In 1895 another volume appeared, "Majors

and Minors". William Dean Howells, himself famed as an author, became interested in Dunbar's works, and compared him favourably with Whittier, Lowell and Longfellow; Richard Gilder says of him that he is the first black man "to feel the life of the Negro esthetically and to express it lyrically". He was enthusiastically praised upon the appearance of "Lyrics of Love and Laughter" and "Candle Lighting Time". Carter Woodson states that his success as a literary man was due to his originality. There had appeared from time to time scores of "Whites and Blacks" who had undertaken to write verse in Negro dialect, but Dunbar was the first to put into it such thougnt and make it such a portraiture of the feelings and aspirations of the Negro as to give his work the stamp of originality. While he was always humorous, his poetry showed deep pathos.

Although Dunbar's fame rests upon his dialect verse, his poem "The Poet", shows that he preferred to be known for his "deeper notes". In the pure flow of lyric verse he never surpassed his early lines :

Ere sleep comes down to soothe the weary eyes
How questioneth the soul that other soul,
The inner sense that neither cheats nor lies,
But self exposes unto self a scroll.
Full writ all life's acts, unwise or wise,
In characters indelible and known,
So trembling with the shock of sad surprise,
The soul doth view its awful self alone,
Ere sleep comes down to soothe the weary eyes.

And who can read those immortal four lines "Dawn", without recognizing his true poetic genius :

An Angle clothed in spotless white
Stooped down to kiss the Sleeping Night
Night woke to blush, the Sprite was gone,
Men saw the blush and called it dawn.

"Robert Gould Shaw" was the expression of pessimism as to the Negro's future in America. "A Death Song" contains the haunting of repeated lines : "Lay me down beneath the Willers and in de Grass". "The Monk's Walk" reflects the poet's thought of being a preacher. Finally there is the swansong contributed to *Lippincott's Magazine*:

Because I had loved so deeply,
Because I had loved so long,
God in his great compassion,
Gave me the gift of song.
Because I have loved so vainly,
And sung with such faltering breath,
The Master in infinite mercy,
Offers the boon of death.

Although Dunbar is chiefly celebrated for poetry, yet his prose works are a contributing factor. For clearness, simplicity and sustained interest few works of fiction surpass his "Uncalled", written in London, and reflecting the poet's thought of entering the ministry. It was followed by "The

Love of Landry", a story of Colorado, where Dunbar had gone in search of health. "The Fanatics" and "The Sport of the Gods" followed. He also wrote short stories: "Folks from Dixie", "The Strength of Gideon", "In Old Plantation Days", a family feud which shows the influence of an old Negro servant in a rich Kentucky family. "The Walls of Jericho" exposes the methods of a sensational preacher. The stories are generally a simple, faithful portrayal of conditions as they are. "The Sport of the Gods", by its interesting treatment of a definite phase of life, rises somewhat above the others in strength and workmanship. Shortly after a visit to England, where he was received with marked attention, he returned home and his health began to fail. The end came at his home in Dayton where he died of tuberculosis at the age of thirty-four.

William Stanley Braithwaite

This poet was born in Boston in 1868. At twelve years of age his father died and he had to leave school to help support his family. He says: "At fifteen there broke out in me a great passion for poetry, and an intense love for literature and a yearning for the ideal life which fosters the creation of things that come out of dreams and visions and symbols. I dedicated my future to literature, though the altar upon which I was to lay my sacrificial life, seemed beyond all likelihood of opportunity and strength and equipment to reach. I set about it however with fortitude, hope and patience." Braithwaite, unlike Dunbar, did not sing of the woes of the Negro. His genius transcended the bounds of race, and he demonstrated that Negro intellect is capable of the same achievements as that of the Whites. It is through his poems and the annual publication of his "Anthology of Magazine Verse" and his numerous criticisms which appeared from time to time in the leading newspapers and magazines of the country, that Braithwaite is accepted as one of the foremost literary critics of our day. Among his works may be mentioned: "Lyrics of Life and Love", "The Book of Elizabethan Verse", "The House of Falling Leaves", "The Book of Georgian Verse", "The Book of Restoration Verse" and "The Book of Victorian Verse".

Brawley says of him that he has worked at his art for years most conscientiously and he has taken the time and the pains to master the details and to secure the general equipment that others all too often deem unimportant. He is fully abreast with all recent schools and tendencies. He has encouraged many other workers in literary fields and in general he has been prominent as a sponsor of current American poetry.

James Weldon Johnson

This versatile man, who recently passed away, has continued to impress us as one whose reputation as poet and man of letters is constantly rising. With his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, he produced the superb lyric "Lift Every Voice and Sing", which has been popularly acclaimed as the national hymn of the Negro race. In 1912 he attracted wide attention by the publication of the "Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man", a remarkable work half fact and half fiction. In 1917 he gathered together in one volume the contributions that had been made to various magazines under the title of "Fifty Years of Freedom and Other Poems". In 1930 Mr. Johnson published "Black Manhattan", a picture of Negro Life in and about New York. He wrote the English version of the Opera "Goyescas", sung at the Metropolitan Opera House. Likewise he has edited "The Book of American Negro Poetry" and "The Book of American Negro Spirituals". The Sonnet "Mother Night" shows to some extent the high quality of his verse :

Eternities before the first born day,
Or ere the first Sun fledged his wings of flame,
Calm Night, the everlasting and the same,
A brooding mother over chaos lay.
And whirling suns shall blaze and then decay,
Shall run their fiery courses and then claim
The haven of the darkness whence they came.
Back to Nirvanic peace shall grope their way,
So when my feeble sun of life burns out,
And sounded is the hour for my long sleep,
I shall full weary of the feverish light,
Welcome the darkness without fear or doubt,
And heavy-lidded, I shall softly creep
Into the quiet bosom of the night.

Cedric Dover says: "It is difficult to classify so versatile a man." He has earned distinction as an American Consul, educationist, poet, playwright and translator of several Spanish plays, pioneer in the popularization of Negro music and poetry and wholehearted worker in the causes and institutions of his people. His fascinating autobiography, "Along this Way", has been rightly described as a book any man might have been proud to have written about a life any man might be proud to have lived. Dr. Johnson was the true poet of his race, he captured the spirit and the flavour of the spirituals and put them into lofty verse. As a poet he ranks with the first half dozen of this generation. He has interpreted the yearnings and emotions of his race as few others have been able to do. His poem called "The Creation", relating the uneducated Negro's conception of the beginning of the world and of man, will live as one of the most colourful and dramatic poems of this century.

CHARLES W. CHESTNUT

was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1858. In 1881 he became principal of the State Normal School, Fayetteville, North Carolina. While in North Carolina, Mr. Chestnut studied the dialects and manners and superstitions of the Negroes of the state. In 1887, he wrote for the *Atlantic Monthly* a series of stories, which he later brought together and published under the title of "The Conjure Woman". In 1889, he published "The Wife of His Youth". The latter is characterized by Brawley as "a simple work of art whose intensity is almost overpowering".

W. E. B. DUBOIS

is a man of many parts—writer, sociologist, editor and scholar. As a writer he has produced five books which give him a place in any consideration of Negro literature. "John Brown" appeared in 1909. In the last chapter, "The Legacy of John Brown", he shows that his hero has a lesson for twentieth century America. In 1911 appeared "The Quest of the Silver Fleece", and in 1924 "The Gift of Black Folks". The other two books are collections of essays and really mark the author's highest achievement. In 1903 he published in one volume fourteen of his articles which had appeared in some of America's leading magazines, under the title of "The Souls of Black Folk". This book, like Flaubert's "Madame Bovary", will continue to live by the sheer force of its style and is in itself enough to give its author enduring literary prominence.

Several Negroes have written autobiographies, which have run through numerous editions, among these are FREDERICK DOUGLAS, JOHN MERCER LANGSTON's "From the Virginia Plantation to the Nation's Capital" and BOOKER T. WASHINGTON's "Up from Slavery". The modesty and clearness of style that characterized this book have made it a model of personal writing. Aside from this Dr. Washington has written "The Story of the Negro", "The Man Farthest Down", and "My Larger Education". From his successor, ROBERT RUSSELL MOTON, we have "Finding a Way Out" and "What the Negro Thinks".

There are many collections of sermons and addresses which have been published, but as one writer expresses it, "in the field of theology in which so much has been attempted, no member of the race has yet produced a work which can command the scholarship of the world. No work, for instance, of the order of Renan's "Life of Jesus" or Strong's "Systematic Theology". The delivery, however, of any of these sermons for pure eloquence and lofty imaginative flights has been unexcelled.

In the field of historical writing there is increasing interest. Even before the Civil War, WILLIAM WELLS BROWN made a beginning in this direction. In 1883, GEORGE W. WILLIAMS published "The History of the Negro Race in America". This work must still be considered when speaking of the efforts of the Negro in this field. More recently CARTER G. WOODSON, a Doctor of Philosophy in History, from Harvard University and Director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, has leaped into prominence because of his historical researches into various phases of the Negro's past. Some of his works include "The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861", "A Century of Negro Migrations" and "The Negro in Our History". Through the researches of the organization which owes its formation to his inspiration and active interest, much is being done to preserve the memorials of the race and to encourage pride in racial achievement. In this connection might be mentioned "A Social History of the American Negro" and "A Short History of the American Negro" by BENJAMIN BRAWLEY. Also "Suppression of the African Slave Trade" and "The Philadelphia Negro" by William DuBois.

As in pulpit literature, so in the classic drama, no Negro has as yet reached the pinnacle of success. Aside from those mentioned who have achieved distinction in the field of poetry we must not neglect GEORGIA DOUGLAS JOHNSON, whose "The Heart of a Woman", "Bronze" and "An Autumn Love Cycle" contain much poignant verse. ALICE DUNBAR NELSON, the widow of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, has written the sonnet "Violets" and other worth-while poems.

The close of the World War brought a new Negro upon the stage of American life. Heretofore he had bewailed his lot, the proscriptions and discriminations against him, because of colour prejudices; he had made in prose and verse a passive recital of his wrongs to arouse sympathy, and so secure the help of those who were able to aid him. But the World War sent him to the camp and across the seas, four hundred thousand strong, to join the ranks of those who were making the supreme sacrifice in order "to make the World safe for Democracy", that the down-trodden might receive a larger measure of freedom, that lynchings might cease, and that the door of opportunity might swing open wider and wider at home. They went and they saw the blood of their kinsmen redden the soil of France. They saw the democracy of that land and the feeling of brotherhood existing there. They returned, determined that after having helped to make Europe safe for Europeans, they would struggle on to help make America safe for the Negro, and so along with new organizations, expressive of this new spirit, authors began to write anew and poets began to sing of their newly acquired determination and hope. In fact there has been such unusual striv-

ing on the part of the younger writers of the race that some people have called the new movement a "renaissance". ALAIN LOCKE—the Rhodes Scholar—has expressed this new spirit in an impressive volume called "The New Negro", and COUNTEE CULLEN in a worth-while anthology, "Caroling Dusk". In fiction we find it in WALTER WHITE'S "Flight" and "Fire in the Flint". In the short story "The City of Refuge" by RUDOLPH FISHER, and JEAN TOOMER'S "Cane". In poetry CLAUDE MCKAY produced two volumes of collections, "Spring in New Hampshire" and "Harlem Shadows". These show much intensity of feeling and a firm command of the form of the sonnet. Countee Cullen has written numerous poems for many magazines and has given his formal presentation in "Color", "Copper Son" and the "Black Christ". LANGSTON HUGHES has also attained prominence and has brought out a volume entitled "The Weary Blues". "In general," says Brawley, "the writers of the new school have the merits of intensity and vividness, and their work is often brillant. On the other hand they have so far shown an undue predilection for sordid or unpleasant subjects, nor have they quite tested their efforts by the great forms of art that have come down through generations of human strivings for expression." However, the influences that called the school into being, had for the most part spent their force by 1930. This year may be taken as marking the return to more generally accepted standards.

STERLING A. BROWN'S volume "Southern Road" sounds a distinctive note in the poetry of this period. ANGELINA GRIMKE, FENTON JOHNSON, ARNA BONTEMPS, RICHARD WHITE, DONALD JEFFREY HAYES, JESSIE FAUCETT, NELLA LARSEN, GEORGE SCHUYLER, ERIC WALROND, JOHN MATTHEWS and WALLACE THURMAN have earned deserved reputations in prose and poetry.

As Calverton said "the Negro has developed out of the American milieu a form of expression, a mood, a literary genre, and a folk tradition that are distinctly and undeniably American". This is more than the white man has done. "The white man in America has continued, and in an inferior manner, a culture of European origin. In respect of originality, then, the Negro is more important in the growth of American culture than the white man. His art is richer, more spontaneous, and more captivating and convincing in its appeal."

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Goodman, N. G. 100 Books chosen by prominent Americans ; [3. ed.] Chicago : A.L.A., 1938. 4p. 100 copies 75 cts.
No. 1 is Shakespeare, *Plays*, no. 99 Wells' *Science of life.*

New York Library Association. *Committee of the Interracial Group.* [Reading lists.] N.Y., Wilson, 1938. 10 leaflets. 35 cts. the set. Czechoslovakia — Germany — Hungary Italy — Jewish life — The Negro — Poland — Rumania — Russia — Scandinavia.

Philobiblon. An enthusiastic Latin eulogy of books and learning by Richard Aungerville, —called Richard de Bury from his birthplace, St. Edmund's Bury, i.e., Burg, England (1287). He was a true thirteenth-century brother of Magliabecchi, Dibdin, or D'Israeli the elder. He was Bishop of Durham and Lord High Chancellor and Treasurer under Edward III. In one of his chapters he tells how, his hobby for books becoming known, rare books flowed to him from every side: he was always purchasing and always on the search at home and abroad. In Chapter xix he tells of the loan library, or book hall, he endowed at Oxford, with five salaried scholars in charge. No book was loaned except upon security, and when a duplicate copy was owned. The chapter on the cleanly handling of books is rigorous and amusing: he hates the dirty cleric who will eat fruit and cheese over a book; in winter allow ichor from his nose to drop upon it; twist it, wrench it, put straws for marks, press flowers in it, and leave it open to collect dust. Bonaventure's cardinal's hat came to him when he was washing dishes; but look out that the scullion monk washes his hands before reading a book. Weak men are writing books, but the choicest trappings are thrown away upon lazy asses. Let the wisdom of great books breathe from us like perfume from the breath of the panther. No man can serve both books and mammon.

Printing in South Africa. From the *References* preceding this article in the October issue of *S.A.L.* we inadvertently omitted:—
Cutten, T. E. G.—History of the press in South Africa. C.N.A, 1935.
Extra copies of the accompanying map are available at 1. 3, post free.

Private Libraries. The bibliographical pages of the *T.L.S.* in its issues from 28. May have described 12 libraries.

Readers' Guide(s) to Books.

(1) Religion; (2) Post-War Europe; (3) Agriculture; (4) Electrical engineering.
L.A., County Libraries Section, 1937.

Seary, Dr. **E. R.** *Lecturer in English, R.U.C., Grahamstown.* A biographical & bibliographical record of S.A. literature in English . . . tentative ed. Grahamstown: The Author, 1938. iv, 66 leaves. Mimeographed. 6d. post free.

The records of Native authors (p. 63), the S.A. Verse anthologies (p. 64), & a Short Bibliography (p. 65) supplement the main work.

Literature is limited to fiction, poetry, drama and literary criticism. No attempt is made to trace fugitive writings. Despite these limitations this pioneer work should be very useful to librarians & collectors.

Typography, in its 6th number, Summer, 1938, presents (pages 31–38) the script for the visual & sound sequences of the documentary film, "From Cover to Cover"; illustrated with stills taken from the film.

OBITUARY

ELLIOTT—The death occurred on 20. November 1938 at Cape Town of Mr. Arthur Elliott, the well-known & respected photographer. His collection of negatives numbers some 6,000, of which 500 were bought only recently to form the nucleus of the Bureau of S.A. Illustration, Johannesburg—one of the cherished schemes of his friend, the late Dr. Gubbins.

The nation-wide appeal for £5,000 to buy the entire Elliott Collection for the Union still stands.

GRAY—We regret to record the death, on 18. November, of the Reverend Dr. James Gray. During the Boer War he filled the position of State Librarian. His fine personal library was among the treasured joys of his later years.

We extend to Mrs. Gray our deepest sympathy in her bereavement.

IN MEMORIAM

FREDERICK W. COOPER

THE DOYEN OF S.A. LIBRARIANS

The Library World of South Africa has sustained a sad loss in the passing of Frederick William Cooper, the Chief Librarian of the Port Elizabeth Public Library, whose death occurred at his home on September 22nd. He had been in failing health for many months, but his sudden end has proved a great shock to all of us.

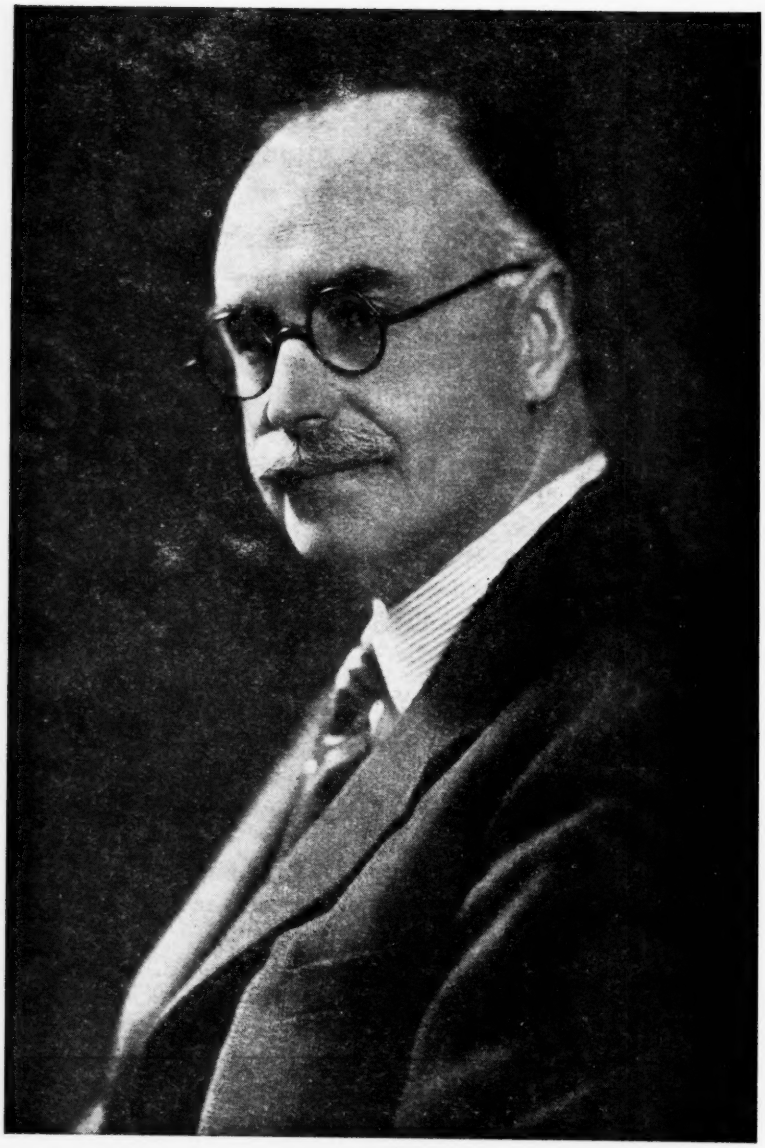
Mr. Cooper was a man of unusual charm of manner, which he combined with a workmanlike efficiency and outstanding ability in his profession. As one of his colleagues over a long period of acquaintanceship has expressed it "he was the perfect librarian". He was a man of broad vision and in addition to caring for the institution under his charge, he readily placed his detailed knowledge of library management at the disposal of other libraries, who came to look to him for advice in their times of difficulty.

Born at Maidstone (Kent) in 1880 he came to Port Elizabeth as Assistant Librarian in 1902, shortly after the Library had moved into its present building, having previously served in Maidstone, Leyton and Cheltenham Libraries, and on the retiral of Mr. Oettle in 1903, he was appointed Librarian.

From his former chief he absorbed a great love for the fine collection of South African items housed in the specially planned South African Room and has been ever zealous in building it up to its present state of excellence. His great ambition was to obtain all items of local importance and his enthusiasm in this regard gave him an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the early history and development of Port Elizabeth. This brought him recognition as an authority on certain aspects of the city's history, concerning which he penned many entertaining and informative articles in the *Library Bulletin*.

Since the formation of the S.A. Library Association he has served as a member of its Council and has kept in personal touch with all its activities.

For many years he was Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Redhouse Yacht Club, and although never a sailing man, he took an enthusiastic interest in the affairs of the Club. He had a deep love of the sea and shipping and was a keen collector of model craft.



THE LATE F. W. COOPER

On September 23rd he was buried at Redhouse, near the river he loved so well, the last rites being conducted by The Venerable Archdeacon Edwardes who was for many years the Chairman of the Library Committee.

Many friends and representatives of public bodies were present at the graveside, and the numerous floral tributes bore testimony to the high esteem in which he was held. We pay tribute to a librarian who graced his profession and are grateful for his work.

To his widow, so sad in her bereavement, we tender our heartfelt sympathy.

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

Bloemfontein. At a meeting of the Committee of the Bloemfontein Library it was decided to inaugurate a new scheme with the intention of stimulating reading among the young people of Bloemfontein. During the course of discussion it was pointed out that in the absence of a free library in the town, boys and girls leaving school at various ages from 14 to 18 could only obtain a regular supply of reading matter by becoming members of the library and paying a subscription of £1. Practically no boy or girl, it was held—during the low-earning capacity of their apprenticeship—could be expected to put down such a sum : and so, from the ages of fourteen until twenty-one the young people of Bloemfontein have practically stopped reading and in many cases the reading habit has been lost altogether.

A similar handicap has been experienced in regard to the full fruition of the work of the Bloemfontein Children's Library—generally held to be one of the most remarkable institutions of its type in the country. Here children have been encouraged to take out books entirely free during their school years, but as soon as they have outgrown juvenile books, they have been unable to develop their reading in the library without paying a fee of £1 a year.

In an attempt to bridge over this hiatus—and until such time as the library can be made entirely free—the Committee have decided to allow all young people in Bloemfontein up to the age of 21 to take out one book at a time from the library at a fee of a penny. There is to be no deposit and all that will be required is the recommendation of a school principal or children's librarian stating that the young person is a proper person to have charge of books. If the boy or girl has already left school, then a similar recommendation can be given by the employer. (*The Friend*, 8. 9. 38)

Cape Town. *Our Libraries.* Mr. J. H. Conradie again demonstrated his happy faculty for grasping realities when, on Friday night, he referred to the poor public support received by the South African Public Library; if that was because it was a subscription library, said Mr. Conradie, then it was high time that they tried to change it. So it is. The change has been advocated before, and in effect Mr. Conradie merely echoed the recommendation made by the Inter-departmental Committee on Libraries in February last, which pointed out with great emphasis that a subscription library is really a relic of the past. Most people read no other books than what, in library parlance, is called fiction, and few people indeed who want fiction go to the South African Public Library to get it. There, they would have to pay a substantial lump sum by way of annual subscription. Instead, they find well-stocked shelves at their disposal in various suburban and commercial libraries where they may borrow a book on payment of a small sum in cash, not often more than threepence. This system, while far superior to the subscription anachronism, is still well behind that recommended by the Inter-departmental Committee, which strongly declared itself in favour of a free lending library service throughout the Union. In Cape Town that is the responsibility of the City Council, which should without further delay revise its annual grant to the South African Public Library and, by financing it adequately, enable it to run a free lending service for the benefit of the general public.

If the "municipal" requirements of the Library can be met in this way, there still remains its "national" function as a reference library—a function which it shares with only one other institution in the Union, the State Library in Pretoria. It also shares with that library a totally inadequate subsidy from the Government, which is calculated on a proportional basis, but cannot rise above £3,000 a year to each of the institutions. Last month, a deputation from the Board of Trustees of the Library explained in detail to the Minister of the Interior how poorly the institution was off. They pointed out that the Library was housed in a building that is 80 years old and not fire-proof, and that they were faced with urgent problems of storing and preserving its contents. The present resources, said the deputation, were insufficient even to run an efficient municipal lending library. That is pretty clear proof of the neglect into which the Library has fallen. It should be tolerated no longer. The Government should give the lead by greatly increasing its grant, and the City Council should follow suit by making itself responsible for the lending section. With the Library's functions thus split and properly financed, the public of Cape Town would be well served. A finishing touch might be added if the authorites in charge of the Parliamentary Library could be persuaded to open its doors just a little wider by giving approved members of the public access to its shelves. At present, this admirable collection hibernates almost unnoticed for the greater part of the year, since few Parliamentarians make use of it during the recess. It might easily and with little sacrifice be permitted to supplement the reference section of the South African Public Library. (*Cape Times*, 24. 10. 1938.)

A Forward Library Movement. "In library development," declares a recent official report, "the Union of South Africa lags behind the rest of the civilised world." This state of affairs is commonly excused by the plea of two factors : that the country is young and that South Africans are not a reading people. That the country as an administrative whole is less than thirty years old is historical fact, and cannot be denied; but the younger the country, the more receptive it should be to progressive ideas; and the older the cultural tradition (which in the Cape is something to be proud of), the easier it should be to translate such ideas into reality. As for the assertion that South Africans are not a reading people, it is belied by the facts. The amount of reading that goes on from all sources in the Cape alone would astonish some of the pessimists; and it is probably true to say not only that the townspeople—and their proportion is increasing—are great potential readers, but that the rural population would become so, if only they were given half the chance.

Two points should, however, be made clear. The first is that reading is, by itself, no particular virtue; and the second, that the library movement in South Africa will never gather force until those responsible for its organisation decide precisely what the function of a library in this country is to be. Much breath and temper are wasted in arguing whether a library should supply "what the public wants" or "what it ought to have," and the real worth of libraries is often obscured by well-meaning talk about "uplift" which merely angers the people it is supposed to benefit. The truth of the matter is that few people do know "what they want", while many appreciate tactful advice from those whose task it is to study their tastes. Literary tastes are formed by fashion, the Press, by formal education, and it is the business of the librarian, as it is of the journalist, to keep one step ahead of the public, and to anticipate, discover and supply its real needs. A library is neither a governess nor a toy. Its primary function is to supply information to those who need it and may not know how to find it. But scholars are relatively few in any community, and the function of the library that most concerns the general public is that of acting as "guide, philosopher and friend".

If these theories and ideals had not already been translated into realities in other civilized countries, one might fairly be accused of preaching in a vacuum; but they have been acted upon, and with such effect that nobody who has once seen both the results and the possibilities of libraries overseas can for a moment doubt the wisdom of extending the movement in South Africa. The question is : where is the money, and where are the men ? The Libraries Report of 1937 declares that "to remedy the present state of affairs a strong lead must be given by the Government of the country, and the active co-operation of municipal and other local authorities secured". Governments do not give strong leads unless they are convinced either of the value of the cause, or of the dire effects that will follow inaction. It is therefore the task of the librarians in this country, and of all those who have the interests of libraries at heart, so to organize opinion that the legislative authorities *are* convinced of the worth of libraries in forming

an intelligent and lively democratic public mind. It is also their task to train and educate library workers equipped not merely with the technique of organisation, but with the vision without which their profession is merely well-intentioned and vague. The public expects a lead, and no effort must be spared to make it an effective one. (*Cape Times* 1. 11. 1938.)

Johannesburg Public Library

Central Library. *Additional Tickets.* Registered borrowers at the Central Library are now allowed to have one non-fiction ticket without further deposit, in addition to the ordinary one or two general tickets which they get upon payment of a deposit of 5/- for each ticket.

Bulletin. Every two months a list of the books added to the Library is being printed and distributed. The first number appeared in September.

Gift of Books by the French Government. On 7. September a function was held in the Johannesburg Room when the Minister Plenipotentiary for France, on behalf of the French Government, handed over a gift of about 400 French books to the Chairman of the Library Committee for the Public Library.

Members of the Staff as Examiners. The Council has agreed that members of the staff may act as examiners for the South African Library Association in professional subjects and retain the fees. Ordinarily the staff is in the same position as civil servants and may not do any outside work, or accept any money in addition to what the Municipality pays as salaries.

Staff meetings. The senior members of the staff meet once a week to discuss matters relating to the Administration and policy of the Library. These members of the staff are also mainly responsible for the selection of books to be added to the stock of the Library. At these meetings the Librarian informs the rest of the staff of the decisions of the Library Committee. In this manner the senior members get a birds' eye view of the work of the Library as a whole.

Outside Activities. *Lectures.* The Librarian lectured to the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies on the Seymour Memorial Library on the 18. October, 1938, and to the teachers at the meeting on Schools' Libraries held on November 24th. The Sub-Librarian (Miss P. M. Speight) addressed members of the English Association on the books of the year on December 5th.

Branches. During January, 1939, sub-branches will be opened at Yeoville and at Rosettenville. Each of these will be open three days of the week from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. and will have a stock of some 3,000 volumes, including children's books and a quick reference collection.

Travelling Library. The travelling library will also be on the road during January. The Transvaal Motors' Ltd. and the Griffin Engineering Company are responsible for the motor and the body. It is being built at a cost of about £630. The travelling library which will carry a stock of 1,500 volumes will visit those suburbs where no branch libraries have been established and will stop for about three quarters of an hour once a week to enable borrowers to select and return books.

Deposits. Both the Branches and the Travelling Library will be run without cash deposit. All that will be necessary is that the intending adult borrower should give two references, when filling in his application for membership. Each borrower will be allowed two books from the Branches, and borrowers from the Travelling Library will be allowed three. Children must obtain the signature of a parent or guardian as guarantor and must have the application form signed by their school teacher as reference.

Hospital Library. The Public Library proposes to start a service for patients and nurses at the General Hospital in the near future. The Hospital Board is providing a room and equipment and the Public Library the books. Voluntary workers from Toc H and the Christian Endeavour Society will operate the service under the direction of an official from the Public Library.

There will be a permanent stock of about a thousand books for the use of the patients and a stock of a few hundred which will be changed at intervals for the use of the nurses.

Industrial Branches. The Library will in future place a collection of books in certain of the municipal workshops for the use of the employees. A start is being made with the Smit Street Workshop.

Club Libraries. Collections of books are now housed in the "Malvern and Belgravia Boys' and Girls' Club", in "Harmonie", a home for working girls, and at the "Torch

Club". These collections are changed whenever it seems desirable, and are proving very popular.

Municipal Reference Library. Pending the completion of the extensions to the City Hall, the Municipal Reference Library is being housed in the Students' Room at the Public Library. Councillors and senior municipal officials use this library and are finding it very useful indeed. The result is that these officials now have a better understanding of, and a more sympathetic attitude towards, library service as a whole.

The Town Clerk has presented to this Library a set of news-cuttings relating to municipal affairs dating back as far as 1902. These cuttings have been classified and are already much used.

The Municipal Reference Library also issues a monthly bulletin listing articles on municipal affairs, which would otherwise in all probability escape the notice of the municipal officials. The demand for periodicals containing these articles shows how useful this list is to Municipal officials.

Kimberley. "Oldest Afrikaans Book Treasure Discovered in Kimberley Public Library"; so runs a double caption in the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* of 12. October. The notice goes on to describe a 32-page pamphlet generally ascribed to C. P. Hoogenhout: *Die Geskiedenis van Josef, voor Afrikaanse Kinders en Huissowens, deur Een Vriend, etc.* Kaapstad: Bij N. H. Marais, 1873.

Rhodesia. Die eerste Vrye Biblioteek in Rhodesia is tans by Inyazura Stasie geopen deur mnr. Boshoff, in medewerking met die plaaslike Debatsvereniging en 'n Vroue Vereniging wat allerlei funksies georganiseer het om fondse vir hierdie doel in te samel.

Die boeke is bedoel vir die Afrikaans-sprekendes op die platteland wat nie deur die Openbare Biblioteke, wat net Engelse boeke verskaf, bedien word nie, en sal by die maandelikse vergaderings van die Debatsvereniging uitgereik word. Sodra hulle meer boeke nodig het, sal daar weer funksies vir die verdere insameling van fondse gereël word.

Salisbury, S. Rhodesia. *Proposed new Library.* As the result of a meeting held recently between members of the library sub-committee appointed by the Salisbury City Council and representatives from the Queen Victoria Memorial Library, Mr. D. Niven, librarian of the Bulawayo Public Library, is to be invited to come to Salisbury to advise the Council on matters pertaining to the proposed municipal library.

(*Rhodesia Herald*, 10. 9. 38)

Sheffield. Under the title "The Use of books in Sheffield", *The Spectator* for 30. September reviews the Report issued by Mr. Lamb, the City Librarian.

South African Public Library, *Cape Town.* A deputation from the Board of Trustees interviewed the Minister of the Interior, Mr. R. Stuttaford, on 16. September. They asked that the Government should assume responsibility for carrying out the national functions of the Library, and that the City Council should take over its functions as a local lending library, and as an immediate course of action, that the Government Grant should be increased from its present maximum of £3,000 to at least £10,000 a year.

Springs Hospital Library. The Springs branch of Toc H is appealing to the public of Springs and Brakpan for English and Afrikaans books in good condition to enable them to open a library at the Far East Rand Hospital. At present there is only a small and inadequate library at the hospital. Books are to be catalogued and properly housed, and voluntary workers will see to their regular distribution and exchange in the wards. Books may be left with the principal of any Government school in Springs or Brakpan; members of Toc H will also call for books. (*The Star*, 23. 11. 38.)

BIBLIOTEEKWESE IN SUID-AFRIKA [1]

Dames en Here,

Verlede jaar het die aftredende voorsitter by hierdie geleentheid op 'n baie treffende wyse verwys na die belangrikheid van die biblioteekprofessie en middele aan die hand gedoen om die diens aan die biblioteekbesoeker deur middel van 'n beter keuring van boeke, eenvoudiger katalogusse en doeltreffender toeligting te verbeter. Daardie middele sal ongetwyfeld baie doen om die besoek van die tipe van persoon aan die Biblioteek te veraangenaam en met groter sukses te bekroon, maar dis my oortuiging dat die struikelblokke op die pad van die biblioteekontwikkeling in ons land nie van so'n huishoudelike aard is nie en beslis buite die bereik van die gewone biblioteekinrigting lê.

Dis nie nodig om u met statistieke te verveel nie, veral ook omdat vertroubare syfers so moeilik verkrybaar is, maar as ek u daarop wys dat slegs 4 persent [2] van die inwoners van ons land gebruik maak van biblioteke, sal u kan besef wat ek aan die begin bedoel het. Nie minder as 96 persent van ons bevolking verkeer nog sonder die voorregte van 'n biblioteek-diens. Die toestand van sake is soveel te meer betreurenswaardig as in aanmerking geneem word dat hierdie groot gedeelte van ons bevolking in hierdie bejammeringswaardige posisie verkeer nie, soseer deur hulle eie toedoen nie, maar grotendeels deur omstandighede waaroor hulle in die verlede geen beheer gehad het nie. Hierdie volksgroep, byna uitsluitend Afrikaanssprekend, het sy oorsprong regstreeks uit die volksgeskiedenis. Die ou Voortrekkers, wie se durf en heldedade vanjaar so treffend oor die hele land herdenk word, het die onbekende ingetrek nie vir selfverheerliking nie, maar om 'n nuwe land te bewoon wat volgens hul beskouing hulle nie sou hinder om hul geluk en saligheid op hul eie wyse te beoefen nie. Die geseënde toestand het nooit in vervulling gekom nie, want binne- en buitelandse gevare het nog aanhoudend gedreig, sodat 'n staat van rus en vrede nooit sy verskyning gemaak het nie. Daar moes gedurig geveg word vir die reg van bestaan : is dit nie teen die menslike vyand nie, dan was dit teen die natuur. Onder sulke omstandighede was lees buite die kwessie. Selfs vandag nog is dit tot 'n groot mate die geval.

Daar is mense wat dit die boer besonder kwalik neem dat hy nie 'n aktiewe leser is nie, maar wie is dan nog begerig om na 'n lang dag van lig-

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[1] Toespraak by geleentheid van die Jaarvergadering van die S.A. Biblioteekvereniging Transvaalse Tak, Johannesburg, 26. Oktober 1938.

[2] M. M. Stirling in 'n toespraak op Vereeniging. *S.A.B.* 6, no. 2 : 84. Okt. 1938.

gaamlike inspanning vanaand nog enige ure by die dowwe kerslig deur te bring? Dis tog sielkundig waar dat „as persone nege of tien uur per dag besig was aan 'n werk wat liggaamlik uitputtend en pynlik eentonig, was dit nie snaaks voorkom wanneer baie van hulle verkies om in hul spaartyd die teater, of voetbalwedstryd te besoek, na die ligtere programmes oor die draadloos te luister, of enigiets anders te doen wat ons sou verkies hulle nie moet doen nie instede van na die biblioteek te kom. Selde gebeur dit dat persone deur hul verstand te verbeter ook daardeur hul materiële omstandighede bevorder." [1]

Gee ons die publieke wat hulle verlang? Dis nodeloos om slegs die „diepere" en swaarder leesstof op te dis en sodoende die algemene massa te probeer opvoed. Ons bereik ons doel nie daardeur nie, want hierdie soort literatuur sal slegs deur 'n klein minderheid gebruik word en dis nie billik om net vir hierdie klein minderheid voorsiening te maak nie. Dis nodig dat ons aan die behoeftes van die publiek voorsien of anders sal *ons* oor die hoof gesien word.

Ook 'n ander persoon [2] trek te velde teen die metode van leesstofverspreiding en skryf die gebrek aan leeslus, veral op die platteland, daaraan toe. Dis die ondervinding van 'n ander belangstellende [3] dat die platteland letterlik „tjank" oor boeke, maar dat dit weëns die gebrek aan fondse nie moontlik is om by te hou nie.

„Daar word in al die dorpe byna sonder uitsondering in die biblioteke geen rekening gehou met die behoeftes van die plattelandse bevolking en byname die Afrikaans-sprekendes nie. Biblioteekkommissies dink te veel net in terme van die behoeftes van die stedelike inwoners. Verreweg die meeste boeke en tydskrifte is van oorsee en voldoen hoegenaamd nie aan die Afrikaanse smaak nie. Op dié manier word die Afrikaanse belangstelling nie gaande gemaak en gesoek nie en uit die aard van die saak kan dit nie so die belangstelling opwek en geniet nie, as die geval sou wees met boeke en tydskrifte wat nie alleen 'n Afrikaanse atmosfeer skep nie, maar ook Afrikaanse onderwerpe behandel. Die opvoedkundige beginsel n. l. *'van die bekende na die onbekende'* geld hier ook, terwyl tot 'n hoë mate die omgekeerde in die verlede nog altyd die geval was in ons land, wat die literatuur betref." [2] Maar of mens nou ookal hiermee sou saamstem, of nie, is dit egter duidelik dat die moderne omstandighede nuwe eise meebring en weldra sal die lewenswyse so gewysig moet word dat vir die naskoolse verstandelike ont-

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[1] Margaret L. Harries. Libraries and society. *L.A.R.* 40, no. 9: 457–58, Sept. 1938.

[2] C. M. van den Heever—in 'n brief aan die Inter-Departementele Komitee die oor Biblioteke van die Unie van Suid-Afrika, gedateer 16. Okt. 1936.

[3] P. C. Schoonees—in 'n brief aan die Inter-Departementele Komitee oor die Biblioteke van die Unie van Suid-Afrika, gedateer 10. Junie 1936.

wikkeling deur middel van lees gesorg sal moet word. Hierdie tyd het feitlik reeds oral sy verskyning gemaak en dit het nou nodig geword om geleidelik voorsiening te maak vir die aangroeiende versoeke vir leesstof deur middel van 'n georganiseerde plattelandse biblioteekstelsel. Dis nie nodig om verder hierop in te gaan nie. Ek wys maar slegs op hierdie brandende kwessie wat skreeu om 'n oplossing. Die weg hiertoe is duidelik aangewys deur die Inter-Departementele Komitee oor die Biblioteke van die Unie van S.A., 1937[1] met sy „sirkulasie-stelsel . . . wat kortom bestaan uit 'n stroom boeke wat deur die distrikte sirkuleer en sodoende hulle weg tot die mees afgeleë streke vind."[2]

Baie nou verwant hieraan is die noodsaaklikheid van 'n biblioteekdiens vir die jeug. As die ou Voortrekkers nog sonder die veelvuldige gebruik van die geskrewe woord kon klaarkom, dan het daar by 'n groot deel van die jong altans 'n diepgevoelde besef ontstaan dat kennis mag is. En gepaard hiermee is ook die gemeenskaplike faktor wat by die kinders van alle nasies gevind word—die *genot* van lees. By ons wat nog nie so baie lang gelede baie jonk was nie, staan daar nog voor ons oë die heldere beeld van die onaantreklike klaskamer waarin op 'n rakkie 'n paar verwaarloosde en ou halfverslete oninteressante boeke staan. In menige skool het die „versameling" deurgegaan as die „skoolbiblioteek"! Wat 'n skreiende onreg teenoor die jeugdige kind wie se gemoed met verlange smag na gesonde avontuur wat op so'n veredelende wyse deur lees bevredig kan word—en dit op 'n stadium wanneer die kind se innerlike met soveel verkeerde gedagtes en neigings gevul kan word. Watter bron van hulp kan so'n skoolbiblioteek nie vir die onderwyser wees nie!

En vandag? Watter gebrek bestaan daar nie nog op die gebied van skoolbiblioteke nie? Die Carnegie-kommissie oor die Armeblanke-vraagstuk[3] het in 1932 gevind dat meer as die helfte van die skole in die Unie geen koerant of tydskrif sien nie. In Transvaal is daar uit die 1129 skole (uitsluitende gekleurde en naturelleskole) slegs 47 wat in die vermoë is om 'n klaskamer uitsluitlik vir die doeleindes van 'n biblioteek af te staan.[4] Daar bestaan nie soiets soos opgeleide skoolbibliotekarisse nie en nog minder bestaan daar op die oomblik enige fasiliteite vir die opleiding van sulke

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[1] Verslag van die Inter-Departementele Komitee oor die Biblioteke van die Unie van Suid Afrika, 1937. Pretoria, Staatsdrukker, 1937. 2. 0.

[2] Dito, bls. 12.

[3] E. G. Malherbe. Onderwys en die armblanke (bls. 368), Stellenbosch, pro Ecclesia-drukkery. 1932. (Deel 3 van die Verslag van die Carnegie-Kommissie oor die Armblanke-vraagstuk in Suid-Afrika.)

[4] Statistieke ingesamel deur die Inter-Departementele Komitee oor die Biblioteke van die Unie van Suid-Afrika, 1937.

persone in ons land.[1] Sover bekend beskik geen skool nog oor enige onderwyser-bibliotekaris nie en die administrasie van die biblioteek is gewoonlik in die hande van die hele staf of prinsipaal, bygestaan deur 'n paar seniorleerlinge. Ofskoon daar by sommige sentrums aan die Witwatersrand 'n paar uitsonderings voorkom, bestaan daar oor die algemeen baie min samewerking tussen die openbare biblioteke en skole.

Wat is die vereistes? Tenminste 'n bruikbare versameling boeke aan elke skool wat as basis kan dien en verder aangevul kan word deur 'n leenstelsel van ander biblioteke.

Die skoolboekery behoort nie slegs te bestaan uit boeke wat op die leerplan betrekking het nie, maar wat ook van algemene belang is en deur die kinders met genot gelees kan word. Die skoolbiblioteek behoort as laboratorium vir die skool diens te doen, en 'n middel stel in die hande van die onderwyser om by kinders 'n neiging tot lees te ontwikkel. Die groter skole behoort 'n voltydse opgeleide bibliotekaris te hê met die status en salaris gelykstaande aan die van die onderwyser. Die kleiner skole behoort ook 'n onderwyser-bibliotekaris te beskik. Skoolbiblioteke dien 'n inhirente deel uit te maak van die algemene onderwysstelsel.

Hierdie is volgens my mening die belangrikste misstande in die raamwerk van ons biblioteekdiens. Daar is nog verskeie ander gebreke, maar hulle hang almal saam hiermee. Dit sal egter sy nut hê om 'n paar te noem: die gebrek aan belangstelling van die kant van ons owerhede,[2] die onverskillige houding van sommige van ons eie staflede deur nie aan die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging te behoort of biblioteekkursusse te volg nie, die betreurenswaardige lae lone waarmee biblioteekwerkers tevrede moet wees, die gebrek aan 'n omvangryke katalogus wat al die boeke in ons land behels, ens.

Daar is egter alle tekens dat ons vordering maak en nie agteruit beweeg nie—stilstaan kan ons nie! Onder ons is 'n toenemende geesdrif merkbaar en van die kant van die owerheid en publiek 'n aangroeiende belangstelling. Namate ons biblioteekassistente hulle op professioneel gebied meer bekwaam, sal die interne toestande in al ons biblioteke verbeter en namate die Regering geldelik en andersins byspring, sal die biblioteekorganisasie as 'n geheel omskep word tot 'n stelsel wat alle klasse van die bevolking sal raak.

Na jare van onverklaarbare getalm, is 'n paar dae gelede in Kaapstad 'n Suidelike Tak van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging gestig. Dat dit

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[1] Die Universiteit van Pretoria het die begin van 1938 'n begin gemaak met so'n kursus wat bedoel is om aan hierdie behoefte te voornien. (Sien Jaarboek van die Univ. van Pretoria. 1936, bls. 152.)

[2] Die aanstelling van die Inter-Departementele Biblioteek-Komitee is 'n bewys, hoop ons, dat die treurige toestand geleidelik besef word.

daartoe sal bydra om Kaapland meer bewus te maak van die moderne rol wat biblioteke, vry van subskripsie, in die gemeenskap moet speel, bly geen twyfel nie. Ons wil die sustertak van harte verwelkom en die hoop uitspreek dat hy 'n bron van inspirasie sal wees.

Een van die belangrikste bakens in ons biblioteek ontwikkeling is die verskyning in die afgelope jaar van die verslag van die Inter-Departementele Komitee oor die Biblioteke van die Unie van Suid-Afrika. Hier het ons 'n Komitee wat deur die Unie-Regering benoem is, na raadpleging met die Provinsiale outoriteite, bestaande meesal uit lede wat nie in biblioteke werksaam is nie, en voorheen waarskynlik geen belangstelling teenoor hierdie beroep betoon het nie, maar wat in hulle verslag 'n gloeiende uiteensetting gee van die gebreke van die biblioteekwese in ons land en middele aan die hand doen ter verbetering daarvan. Ofskoon ons almal miskien nie ten volle saamgaan met al hulle aanbevelings nie—dit sou ook nie te verwagte wees nie—het ons nietemin hier 'n verslag wat sy vinger lê op al die sieklike maar geneeslike kwale in ons land se biblioteekstruktuur. Ons het hier 'n vastrapplek om teen vas te skop waar ons so hard spook om die bult uit te kom. Maar dis nodig dat ons daarvan gebruik maak. Die verslag is vir byna 'n jaar reeds in hande van die Regering. Ons moet billik wees en die owerheid 'n geleentheid gee om grondig op die aanbevelings in te gaan, maar word daar nie iets gedoen om die gebrekkige opvoedingstelsel vir die massa deur middel van die biblioteek te omskep nie, dan is dit ons plig as 'n vereniging van bibliotekarisse om daadwerklik op te tree. In die hele geskiedenis van ons nasie is daar voorheen van regeringsweë, sover my bekend, geen verslag oor die biblioteke in ons land uitgebring nie. Laat hierdie Rapport dan in der waarheid ons Magna Charta wees.[1]

(Get.) S. J. KRITZINGER
Voorsitter

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[1] „U sal geinteresseerd wees om te verneem dat op die eerste Konferensie van die Australiese Instituut vir Bibliotekarisse wat so pas gehou is, verskeie sprekers uit die *Verslag van die Inter-Departmentele Komitee oor die Biblioteke van die Unie van Suid-Afrika* aangehaal het en dat dit in Australië deurgaans erken word as 'n gesaghebbende dokument oor bilioteekontwikkeling." (Uittreksel uit brief van John Metcalfe, Sekretaris van die Biblioteek Adviserende Komitee, Australië, aan die Unie van Suid-Afrika se Sekretaris van Binnelandse Sake.)

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Syllabus of Examinations

Second, revised edition. 1939. 1s. 0d.

December Examinations. Examiners :—

Elementary & Final Afrikaans	Professor Van den Heever
Elementary & Final English	Professor Greig
French language	Professor Maingard
Elementary Routine, etc.	Miss Elliott Miss Shilling
Intermediate Classification	Mr. Borland Miss A. Smith
Intermediate Cataloguing	Mrs. Dick Miss Mews *Alternate* Mr. Freer
Final Bibliography, etc.	Miss Speight Mr. Varley *Alternate* Mr. Freer
Final Administration	Mr. Borland Mr. Stirling

Correspondence Courses, 1939. Tutors :—

Elementary Afrikaans	Miss A. Smith
Elementary English	Miss Levy
Elementary Routine, etc.	Miss Oppenheim
Intermediate Classification	Mrs. Dick
Intermediate Cataloguing	Mrs. Knox-Shaw
Final Bibliography, etc.	Mr. Varley
Final Administration	Mr. Borland

CAPE BRANCH INAUGURATED

At a largely attended meeting held on 21. October in the S.A. Public Library, it was decided to form a Cape Province Branch of the S.A.L.A. The meeting was convened by Mr. Paul Ribbink, Librarian of Parliament. Mr. J. H. Conradie, the Administrator, spoke on library services at the Cape. Mr. Stirling was also one of the speakers. Professor H. Reyburn presided. The following constitute the provisional Committee appointed to draft a constitution :—
Mr. Varley, Mr. Parker & Mr. Ribbink. We wish the new branch every success.

TRANSVAAL BRANCH

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting was held on 26. October in the Johannesburg Public Library, when the following Committee members were elected for 1938-39 Mr. C. Christie (Chairman), Miss G. F. Elliott, Mr. P. Freer, Miss E. Hartmann,

Mr. S. J. Kritzinger (*ex officio*), Mr. M. M. Stirling & Mr. Ungerer (Hon. Secretary).

The address of the retiring Chairman, Mr. Kritzinger, appears elsewhere in this issue.

The proceedings concluded with the showing of two short films: "From Tree to Newspaper" & "Making a Book".

Review of the year's activities, 1937–38.

Membership dropped during the year from 128 to 127. Branch meetings were held at The Archives, Pretoria; Krugersdorp Public Library; Union Buildings, Pretoria; Johannesburg Public Library; Springs Public Library; Division of Veterinary Services, Onderstepoort; and Randfontein Public Library.

It is discouraging to report that the average attendance at mettings dropped to 32, although this may be explained by the fact that more meetings than usual were held during the year.

As before, great hospitality has been shown to the Branch.

By courtesy of Messrs. Pirie & Sons, a film on Paper-making was shown in the Johannesburg Public Library Theatre.

Papers were read by Miss M. W. Shilling on "Women in Librarianship", by Mr. R. F. Kennedy on "City Library Service in the United States", by Mr.G.F.Peck on "The History and Development of the Springs Public Library", and Mr. R. Brown on "The Planning of Libraries for the small S. A. Town."

The Committee met on several occasions and can report on a very successful year's progress.

The attempt initiated by the last year's Committee to induce the Transvaal Education Department to guarantee payment to cover the loss of books by school children from public libraries where no charges were made, has now proved unsuccessful, although the Director assures us of his sympathetic interest in library development.

It is hoped that the growing number of libraries which are abolishing subscriptions and deposits will give a lead to those who have not yet adopted these principles and it is proposed to bring up the question of deposits for discussion at the 1939 Conference.

The Committee has been actively interested in the question of indexing and as a result of proposals put forward, it is hoped that next year will see the publication of an index to current issues of *The Star*, as well as an index to South African periodicals.

The active co-operation of the Transvaal Teachers' Association has been promised the Branch, and the T.T.A. Executive Committee has agreed to encourage contact between librarian and teacher, and to foster the growth of school libraries. The Branch is invited to hold a joint meeting with the T.T.A. at their annual Conference and to send Branch representatives, whenever possible, to address T.T.A. meetings on library matters in the more remote Transvaal towns.

It is hoped that the incoming Committee will strengthen these links even further, and will try to establish similar contact with such kindred bodies as the Transvaalse Onderwysersunie and the Headmasters' Association.

The Minutes and notices of meetings are now also being circulated in Afrikaans.

The Branch continues to spend less than its income and the accounts show a credit balance of £28. 8. 11.

FORTHCOMING ARTICLES

THE READERS' ADVISER IN AMERICAN LIBRARIES, *by* Mr. R. F. Immelman.

A COURSE OF STUDY, *by* Sir John Herschel, 1834.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPRINGS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY, *by* Mr. George Peck.

THE PLANNING OF LIBRARIES, *by* Mr. R. Brown.

SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES

A.L.A. Newberry & Caldecott awards (1922–38). 4 p.

Combridge, C. Ltd., *firm.*
Classified catalogues of value to every school librarian.
1. Under ten : books for young readers.
2. Growing up : books for boys & girls, 10–14.
3. Sixteen to nineteen : a select list of books, fiction and non-fiction, suitable for adolescents; comp. with the assistance of a panel of school and public librarians. 88 p.
4. History in fiction : a list of historical fiction arranged in chronological order under centuries, with annotations, for readers from 12–19 years. All gratis, from 9 Bull Ring, Birmingham.

Johannesburg Schools' Library. On 24. November, 1938, a meeting of the Principals and School Librarians of the schools which get books from the Public Library was held in the Johannesburg Room of the Public Library.

The Chairman of the Library Committee, Mr. Maurice Freeman, welcomed the teachers and then the Librarian, Mr. R. F. Kennedy, gave a short address on what an ideal school library should be. He suggested that every school should have a separate room to be used for library purposes only and in time he hoped that all schools in the Transvaal would also have a teacher librarian.

The Normal College was arranging a course of training for teachers so as to enable them to gain some knowledge of school library methods. The Librarian stressed the importance of a small reference collection in every school. Further the Librarian asked for the teachers' co-operation in enrolling borrowers for the new suburban libraries which the Council is about to institute.

Miss Anna Smith addressed the meeting in Afrikaans and explained what the Council was at present doing for the schools in the Johannesburg municipal area. She described what she had seen when she and the Sub-Librarian visited the schools in Johannesburg and also made a plea for a reference collection in every school.

The next speakers were Mr. B. Northling Swemmer, headmaster of E. P. Baumann School, and Mr. E. C. Le Roux, headmaster of the Jubileum Afrikaans Medium School. Both these speakers asked the teachers present to support the suburban libraries by enrolling their pupils as borrowers.

Many teachers took part in the discussion that followed and some of the suggestions were very valuable indeed.

After tea the teachers inspected the specimen collection of books available in the schools' library. This collection is kept at the Public Library for teachers to choose what they want for their schools after seeing the actual books. A great deal of interest was taken in a collection of reference books which was displayed to give teachers an idea of what a small reference collection should contain. Other exhibits included some two dozen of the newest English and Afrikaans children's books as well as a small collection of books on the organization of school libraries and children's reading.

"The Library in the School" is the title of an article contributed by Mr. Ian M. Murray, to the August number of *Education*, the organ of the S.A. Teachers' Association.

School Librarian. The official organ of the School Library Association. Editor : C. W. Morris, 52 Seacroft Hill, York. 7s. 6d. p.a. illus. (Single 2s. 0d.)
Partial contents :— Vol. 1. no. 4, Mar. 1938 :— The Cheltenham Classification; Simplified and epitome Bliss; School libraries in Holland; The Library of a mixed county grammar school; Teaching the use of the library. Vol. 1. no. 5, July, 1938 :— Classification, Dewey, Bliss and Cheltenham schemes; Librarianship in a county grammar school; £100 to spend on a History library: a buying list ; School libraries in Norway; List of books on Domestic subjects.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Archives et bibliothèques. Paris. 1937–38. No. 2.

Barlow, Fred. Public library finance. Gravesend : Alex. J. Philip, 1938. 111 p. Cloth. 8. 0. ("The Librarian" Series of practical manuals, 11).

Bloemfontein. *Public Library.* Annual Report, 1937–38.

Careers Guide. In the October issue Miss Winifred Dashwood tells us all about "Librarianship as a career". Two snaps of the University of the Witwatersrand Library Main Reading Room illustrate her article.

Free Library Movement, Sydney, N.S.W. Third Annual Report. 4 p. *Mimeographed.*

Grattan, C. Hartley. Libraries : a necessity for democracy. Sydney : Free Library Movement, 17, O'Connell St., 1938. 14 p. "... *In Australia one cannot take libraries for granted, since they exist so precariously and in such an undeveloped state.*" p. 5.

New Zealand Library Association. Proceedings & papers of 10. Conference ... 15.–18. Feb. 1938. Wellington : N.Z.L.A., (1938). 46 p.

Nijhoff's Overzicht van ... Nederl. Uitgaven vooral van de 20ste Eeuw ; uitg. 1938.

Ontario Library Review & Canadian Periodical Index. Toronto : Vol. 22. no. 3, Aug. 1938.

Paris. Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques, 1937. Bibliothèques : organisation, technique, outillage, etc. Paris, 1938. Illus.

Philip, Alex. J. *ed.* The new assistant ; or, The junior's vade mecum. Gravesend : Philip, "Lodgewood". 55 p. Boards. 4s. 0d., 5 copies at 3s. 0d., 10 copies at 2s. 8d., if ordered at one time. ("Librarian" Professional text-books, 1).

Ray, N.-R. Libraries in Bengal, present & future : (presidential address delivered at the Bengal Library Conference... Midnapore, 19. Mch. 1938 ; repr. from the *Calcutta Review*, June, 1938).

Reader's Companion : the Bulletin of the Transvaal Carnegie Non-European Library, Germiston. No. 3, Sept. 1938 ; No. 4. Dec. 1938, (Northern Transvaal Number).

Scholefield, G. H. ... Union catalogue of New Zealand newspapers, preserved in public libraries, newspaper offices, etc. Wellington, N.Z. : Govt. Printer, 1938. 38 p. (General Assembly Library).

The S.A. Public Library. "Accessions", Aug.–Sept., 1938, continues in its original, printed form, with the call number against each entry. Welcome innovations are the publisher's name, year and brief annotations.

A PLEA FOR LENIENCY BY AN IMPECUNIOUS STUDENT

It is part of
A Librarian'sduty
To starve his heart of
All desire for booty.

Books, who loves to
Lend for learning
Him it behoves to
Shun all thought of earning.

To a scholar
Bibliophile and
Sans a dollar
He should smile and

With no fine of
Large dimensions
Mar the line of
Great intentions.

Dear Librarian
Be not fretful
With a weary an'
Too forgetful

Student poor who
Begs you never
Close your door to
High endeavour.

It is part of
A Librarian's duty
To starve his heart of
All desire for booty.

Books, who loves to
Lend for learning,
Him it behoves to
Shun all thought of earning.

J.G.G

MOTION PICTURES ADAPTED FROM BOOKS

Compiled by

GLADYS OPPENHEIM

from lists supplied by

The Motion Picture Producers & Distributors of America, Inc.
(Of interest to librarians who wish to prepare in advance
for unusual demands stimulated by films)
All recently completed, or still in production.

Brother Rat. From the play by J. Monks & F. Finklehoffe. (Warner Bros.)
Christmas Carol, A. Based on the story by Charles Dickens. Dir.: E. L. Marin. Cast: Reginald Owen, Lynne Carver, Terry Kilburn. (M.G.M.)
Girls' School. From a story by Tess Slesinger. Dir.: John Brahm. Cast: Anne Shirley, Nan Grey, Joan Tree. (Columbia)
Great Library Misery, The. An educational short which is a humorous treatment of the tortuous processes it is sometimes necessary to go through to secure a library book.
Little Princess, The. From the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Dir.: Walter Lang. Cast: Shirley Temple, Richard Greene, Anita Louise, Ian Hunter. (20th Century Fox)
Madame Curie, by Eve Curie, is announced by M.G.M. as Greta Garbo's next starring vehicle.
Mr. Moto takes a Vacation. Based on the character created by J. P. Marquand. Dir.: Norman Foster. Cast: Peter Lorre, John King, Virginia Field. (20th Century Fox)
Room Service. From the play by J. Murray & A. Boretz. Dir.: William Seiter. Cast: The Marx Brothers, Ann Miller. (R.K.O. Radio)
Three Musketeers, The. Farcical treatment of the novel by Dumas. Dir.: Allan Dwan. Cast: The Ritz Brothers, Gloria Stewart. (20th Century Fox)
Wuthering Heights. From the novel by Emily Brontë, adapted by Ben Hecht & Ch. McArthur for Goldwyn-United Artists.
Yearling, The. From the novel by Marjorie Rawlings, Dir.: Victor Fleming. (M.G.M.)
Young in Heart. From the novel by I. A. R. Wylie. (Selznick International-United Art.)

APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, ETC.

ABBOTT—Mr. A.E. Abbott retires from the U.C.T. Library at the end of 1938.
BOSAZZA—Mrs. E. I. Bosazza (née Wallis), retires from the staff of the University of the Witwatersrand on 31. December.
IMMELMAN—Mr. R. F. Immelman, B. A., U. C. T. Library, returned to Cape Town on 4. November. He has been visiting important libraries abroad. After studying a year at Columbia University, he obtained his B.S. (Library Science) Degree.
ROBINOW—Mrs. B. H. Robinow (née Minnaar), retires from the staff of the University of the Witwatersrand on 31. December.
SNELLING—Miss Winifred Snelling, F.L.A. (Diploma), has been appointed Deputy-Librarian at Port Elizabeth. Miss Snelling was on the staff of the Leyton Public Libraries from 1931–38, when she came to Wynberg on exchange with Miss Ashenhurst. It is interesting to note that the late Mr. Cooper also spent some of his early years at Leyton.
THOMPSON—Mr. Anthony Thompson, B.A., formerly of the British Museum, who acted during Mr. Immelman's absence, has now been placed on the permanent staff, as Librarian-in-Charge of the Hiddingh Hall Library, the "down-town" branch of U.C.T., *vice* Mr. Abbott.
WEIR—Miss Maisie Weir, M.A., F.S.A.L.A., retired from the State Library on her marriage to Dr. Harold Knox-Shaw, Director of the Radcliffe Observatory, Pretoria. We tender to them our best wishes for their future happiness.

SELECT LIST OF NEW BOOKS[1]

Compiled by

D. S. TEASDALE

Readers' Adviser, Johannesburg Public Library

100 — PHILOSOPHY

136.7 Cattell, Raymond B. Crooked personalities in childhood and after. Nisbet. 7. 6

Current psychological methods of treating difficult & nervous children are well described for the layman, with explanations of the limitations & contributions of Freud, Jung, & Adler. Case histories are taken largely from the author's personal experience while directing the work of the psychological department in Leicester schools. A useful book for parents & teachers.

173.1 Kingsmill, Hugh, *ed.* Made on earth; a panorama of marriage. H. Hamilton. 10. 6

An anthology, made up of extracts from biographies, letters, diaries, & poems, gives glimpses of happy and unhappy marriages among English literary people. Among those quoted are Milton, Samuel Johnson, Hazlitt, Dickens, Carlyle, & D. H. Lawrence.

300 — SOCIAL SCIENCES

331.833094 Denby, Elizabeth. Europe re-housed. Allen & Unwin. 14. 0

Relates what has been done since 1918 & is being done at present in Sweden, Holland, Germany, Vienna, Italy, & France to provide adequate housing for low and middle income groups. The business side of housing is discussed ; English conditions are compared to other European findings. The author had eight years' experience in re-housing in London, followed by a year's investigation on the Continent. A practical book, illustrated from photographs, plans, & drawings.

396.0947 Halle, Fannina W. Women in the Soviet east. Secker & Warburg. 15. 0

An examination of women in the non-Russian eastern territories of the Soviet Union. The author has attempted to show in this frank study what the status of women was in the past & how it has been changed by the Soviet régime. Part of the book describes her travels through the country where she met different types & races. Well documented, many photographs of native women, political map.

341.3 Menne, Bernhard. Krupp; or, The Lords of Essen. Hodge. 12. 6

A critical history of the German armament firm, of its founders & owners up to the present day, of their international activities, even in times of war, & of their tremendous influence on German politics.

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[1] With acknowledgements to *The Book List* and to *The Book Review Digest.*

301 Russell, Bertrand. Power; a new social analysis. Allen & Unwin. 7. 6

The author's object is to prove that power is the fundamental concept in social science, just as energy is the basic idea of physics. To that end he interprets & analyses social, religious, & political movements, military conquests, economic competition, & moral codes. He considers the possibility of taming power, for which he advocates a combination of democracy & public control of large-scale industry. Though sometimes involved, the book offers provocative reading.

396.0942 Woolf, Virginia. Three guineas. Hogarth. 7. 6

With the same ironic wit that characterized *A room of one's own* the author considers the position of women in England in other fields than literature—in society, education, politics, & the church—& comments on their limitations of preparation & opportunity.

500-600 — NATURAL SCIENCE & USEFUL ARTS

500 Hogben, Lancelot. Science for the citizen. Allen & Unwin. 12. 6

A scientific omnibus for intelligent adults & adolescents, giving the fundamentals & some advanced knowledge regarding chemistry, astronomy, physics, biology, psychology, genetics, & eugenics, along with some medicine, physiology, & geology. Comments on modern social problems are included. Very well written, in a semi-popular manner, although scientific details are not omitted.

629.133347 Lindbergh, Anne Morrow. Listen! the wind. Chatto & Windus. 7. 6

In 1933 the author & her husband made a survey flight lasting nearly six months, around the North Atlantic ocean. This book covers only ten days of that time—the landing & enforced stay at the Cape Verde islands & at Bathurst on the African coast, & the long night flight from there to Brazil. Like *North to the Orient* it is a very human account of thoughts, feelings, & people ; it is also an accurate record of careful planning, of the care and flying of the plane, & operation of the radio—all making absorbing reading. Colonel Lindbergh contributes the foreword, maps, and an appendix which gives a history of the plane, lists of all equipment, & the official log of the entire survey flight.

621.384 Saerchinger, César. Voice of Europe. Gollancz. 15. 0

A pioneer in transatlantic broadcasting tells of his seven years in Europe as director of the Columbia broadcasting company, of his relations with the celebrities—among them the Prince of Wales, Shaw, Dollfuss, & the Pope—he introduced to radio audiences, & the fierce competition with rival companies in getting news at crucial moments. A revealing sidelight on the part radio plays in contemporary history, particularly in the chapters on the use of radio by dictators & politicians. Radio control & policies in European countries are discussed in the final chapters.

700 — FINE ARTS

791.4 Bardèche, Maurice. History of the film. Allen & Unwin. 18. 0

A comprehensive,detailed review of the cinema from the early days to the present in America, Europe, & Asia. The directors, actors, materials used, the changes that have taken place in the past forty years, the effects of sound on the industry, present conditions & techniques ar all traced. Index of film titles & general index. A useful reference book.

711 Mumford, Lewis. The Culture of cities. Secker & Warburg. 21. 0

The theories developed in the author's *Technics & civilization* are here applied to cities in a plea for considered planning of cities & regions in the interest of a better life. He traces the growth of cities from medieval times, analyses their evil features, & visualizes a future in which the knowledge & discipline that the machine age has provided will be used to promote a higher civilization. The book is both a challenge & an inspiration, & is of special timeliness in view of the present interest in housing & planning.

791.4 Powell, Michael. 200,000 feet on Foula. Faber. 12. 6

The adventures & experiences of a young film director in selling & promoting his scenario, "The edge of the world", in finding a suitable island, & in planning the picture there. Foula, an isolated Shetland island, was chosen ; Powell and his company ran into many struggles before their 200,000 feet of film were exposed. A lively tale, sometimes humorously told.

781.6 Shore, Bernard. The Orchestra speaks. Longmans. 7. 6

An English musician who has played under many of the world's prominent symphony conductors, gives character sketches of some modern conductors & discusses their methods. Those included are Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Adrian Boult, Pau Casals, Albert Coates, Eugene Goossens, John Barbirolli, Leslie Heward, Julius Harrison, Sir Hamilton Harty, Sergei Koussevitony, Willem Mengelberg, Malcolm Sargent, Arturo Toscanini, Sir Henry Wood.

800 — LITERATURE

804 Wilson, Edmund. The Triple thinkers. O.U.P. 10. 6

Intelligent, critical essays on Paul Elmer More, Pushkin, A. E. Housman, Flaubert, Henry James, John Jay Chapman, Samuel Butler, & Bernard Shaw, along with two general essays "Is verse a dying technique", & "Marxism & literature".

900 — HISTORY

940.5 Angell, *Sir* Norman. Peace with the dictators. H. Hamilton 7. 6

Written in the form of a symposium the case for Nazism is presented by a German, for fascism by an Italian, for isolationism by an Englishman & an American, along with replies to all of these. The pacifist position is examined & the author concludes that a collective declaration of resistance to further aggression is the only way to peace. An able & provocative summary of present European controversies & problems.

942.08 Churchill, Winston. Arms & the covenant. Harrap. 18. 0

A collection of speeches in foreign affairs & national defence, delivered by Mr. Churchill mostly in the House of Commons during the past six years. They present a clear review of the international situation from the viewpoint of a liberal who believes in maintaining peace by resisting German aggression with rearmament & a show of force.

909.82 Gibbs, *Sir* Philip. Across the frontiers. M. Joseph. 10. 6

The author observes & discusses informally European conditions & politics of to-day. The opinions of citizens in European countries are quoted ; the author himself admits English errors in foreign policy, deplores alignments with Russia, & makes a plea for an appreciation of Hitler's movement, with a policy of appeasement for Germany and Italy. He denounces the persecution of Jews, however. A controversial rather than profound book.

943.085 Kolnai, Aurel. The War against the West. Gollancz. 18. 0

A Liberal Catholic, who is a native of Austria, has written a comprehensive survey of Nazi ideology, based on the writings & speeches of Nazi leaders, philosophers, & journalists. He finds Nazism a revolt against all that is represented by western civilization, particularly its liberalism & moral codes, & he believes there can be neither coöperation nor compromise, for German fascism is inherently destructive.

943.085 Lips, Eva. What Hitler did to us. M. Joseph. 10. 6

The personal story of two sufferers from intellectual persecution in Germany. Professor Lips, an anthropologist of established reputation, although not Jewish, was forced into exile, when he refused to degrade his scientific teaching for Nazi purposes. His wife's account of the day-by-day imposition of tyranny in all aspects of life is realistic & documented. She & her husband were fearless ; in contrast the enforced acquiescence of many of their friends was tragic & pitiful.

946.08 Mendizabal, Alfred. The Martyrdom of Spain. Bles. 10. 6

A Catholic professor discusses the political conditions in Spain from before the Rivera dictatorship to the Popular Front government. He believes that both right & left wings of the present struggle have been guilty of excesses ; his opinions will please neither rebels nor loyalists.

943.7 Wiskemann, Elizabeth. Czechs & Germans. O.U.P. 12. 6

A history of Czechoslovakia, with a detailed review of the political, cultural, & economic questions which formed a background for the recent crisis. Events following the German annexation of Austria are not included. A sober, objective book, useful for students & intelligent readers.

910 — DESCRIPTION & TRAVEL

914.15 Gogarty, Oliver St. John. I follow Saint Patrick. Rich & Cowan. 16. 0

In a pilgrimage that revives the little that is known of St. Patrick, the author follows the footsteps of that vague historical figure in Wales & Ireland, & visits the places which history or legend has associated with the Saint. It is a witty, allusive book, a mixture of geography, biography, legend, & poetry.

915.8 Krist, Gustav. Alone through the forbidden land. Faber. 12. 6

With no incentive but the spirit of adventure, an Austrian travelled through northern Persia & the Soviet territory in Turkestan. At the time of his travels in 1923–24, Russia & England were rivals in the attempts to etablish control, the borders were closed to Europeans, & the author, using a borrowed passport, was in constant danger except when living with remote tribes. Many photographic illustrations.

917.2 Lamb, Dana. Enchanted vagabonds. H. Hamilton. 15. 0

Bound for adventure a fearless young couple set out from San Diego for Panama in a home-made sailing canoe. Camping on the uninhabited coast, fighting their way inland through the jungle to explore prehistoric ruins, & living off the land, they made their way south, with endurance & ingenuity that would shame Robinson Crusoe. The book is well written ; the vagabonds' survival during the three years' journey will strain the reader's credulity, but he will not be bored. Well illustrated with photographs.

918 Ullman, J. R. The other side of the mountain. Gollancz. 12. 6

A New York producer, anxious, after four unlucky plays, to escape from the world of dramatic critics, chose South America & landed at Lima. Travelling on foot, by mule, & by boat, he crossed the Andes & went down the Amazon to its mouth. He writes casually ; his book is purely personal adventure, with no ulterior purpose, for he says: "Whatever else it may have accomplished, my journey has not made me into an expert or authority on anything."

914 Van Til, William. The Danube flows through fascism. Scribner. 10. 6

In the summer of 1936 a young American professor of social studies & his wife, bored by conventional tourist sightseeing, travelled in a kayak down the Danube from its source for 900 miles. The story of their daily adventures provides entertaining reading, but conversations with the peasants of the Central European countries indicate their fear of war, the repressions of dictatorships, & the uncertainties from which they suffer.

920 — BIOGRAPHY

920 Balabanoff, Angelica. My life as a rebel. H. Hamilton. 10. 6

A woman whose life has been spent in promoting the international labour movement & the anti-war activities of the Socialists, writes of her forty years of work,now ending in disillusionment & grief. In her youth, a voluntary exile from Russia, she returned to work with the Soviet until repression & bureaucracy forced her to break with the Communist party, & she turned to the Italian labour movement. She has known most of the great revolutionaries & her intimate, searing analysis of Mussolini is a new picture of the dictator.

920 Barrett, William E. Woman on horseback. Davies. 12. 6

Eliza Lynch, an Irish-born beauty, met Francisco Lopez in Paris & went with him to Paraguay in the middle of the nineteenth century. He succeeded his father as dictator, & his mistress shared actively in the government, as ruthless a tyrant as he, & fled to Europe at his death. Melodramatic history & partly fictionized biography.

920 Brittain, Vera. Thrice a stranger. Gollancz. 10. 6

The author of *Testament of youth* made three visits to the United States, in 1925, 1934, & 1937. The first time she came as the wife of an exchange professor, & lived in a university town and in New York ; subsequently, as a successful writer, she came on lecture tours that took her to all parts of the country. She is well-informed & friendly ; her book reports not only her own changing attitude as she learned to understand America, but also the difference in the national outlook after the depression, the growing awareness of European situations, & an increasing sense of social responsibility.

920 Digby, George. Goose feathers. Collins. 10. 6

Highlights in the life of a journalist wanderer. He managed part of a tea plantation in Ceylon at seventeen, became involved in a romance with the half-caste daughter of a planter, later engaged in the illegal shooting of birds of paradise in New Guinea, & in Japan gathered unfavourable impressions of the Japanese because of their lack of humour. The author's personal reminiscences plus anecdotes collected from the far corners of the earth make entertaining enough reading.

920 Dunsany, Lord. Patches of sunlight. Heinemann. 15. 0

Very leisurely reminiscences by the playwright & author in which he tells of his boyhood in London & Kent, of school at Eton, of his love of nature, of his social life, & of his experiences during the Boer & World Wars. Emphasis is on those scenes in his life which have influenced or contributed to his writings.

926.1 Flexner, James T. Doctors on horseback. Heinemann. 16. 0

The struggles, discouragement, & achievements of early American physicians as they fought ignorance, tradition, & superstition, & raised standards in medicine & surgery.

920 Freuchen, Peter. It's all adventure. H. Hamilton. 12. 6

Anecdotal writing, almost childishly naïve in its outpouring of the author's experiences in Denmark & Greenland. Since writing his *Arctic adventure* the loss of a foot had barred him from expeditions, but he had a hand in planning them & in writing of them, & he published fiction, lectured, married a second time, & brought his half-Eskimo children from Greenland.

920 Kuhn, Irene. Assigned to adventure. Harrap. 10. 6

The breezy autobiography of a self-made woman journalist, filled with fresh impressions & commentary, much vigorous determination & action, & accounts of many varied contacts in foreign lands. To be read not for interpretations of contemporary events or problems, but as a diverting personal story.

920 Lehmann, Lotte. Wings of song. Routledge. 10. 6

With childlike candour the famous opera star tells of her early life & musical training in Germany, & of her successful career. She writes with friendly serenity, with no dramatics, & she stresses the pleasures rather than the drudgery of opera & concert work.

920 Sava, George. The Healing knife. Faber. 8. 6

The autobiography of a penniless white Russian refugee who became a surgeon against terrific odds. The amazing story of his struggles & his labour, his academic, & finally professional successes, tells also of unusual cases & incidents in the operating room. The publishers state that the author now has an important practice in London.

920 Stone, Irving. Sailor on horseback. Collins. 10. 6

Jack London lived on a Gargantuan scale ; fantastic adventures, great endurance, & indomitable character make his life story almost as incredible as the most melodramatic fiction. This biography is complete & authentic, based on family letters & interviews with many people who knew London ; often it is in his own words.

920 Thomas, Lowell. Adventures among immortals. Hutchinson. 12. 6

Mr. Thomas has recorded the autobiography of Percy Burton who was manager for a galaxy of famous artists & writers. Anecdotes about H. G. Wells, T. E. Lawrence, Duse, J. M. Barrie, Edgar Wallace, Bernard Shaw, John McCormack, Sarah Bernhardt, & many others.

FICTION

GENERAL		
ARMSTRONG, M.	The Snake in the grass	Gollancz
BAGNOLD, E.	The Squire	Heinemann
BATES, H. E.	Spella Ho	Cape
BLUMENFELD, S.	Doctor of the lost	Cape
BROWN, A.	Margareta	Boriswood
DAVIES, R.	Jubilee blues	Heinemann
FALLADA, H.	Wolf among wolves	Putnam
FERBER, Edna	Nobody's in town	Heinemann
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